

CRICKET

Battle rejoined
with the old enemy

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THE TIMES

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45p

Relieved Major appeals for Tory unity as 'no' campaign concedes defeat

Danish Yes to Maastricht

■ The Danish voters' approval of
Maastricht ends a year of uncertainty for
Europe and leaves Britain as the only
EC member state still to ratify the treatyBy GEORGE BROCK IN COPENHAGEN
AND PHILIP WEBSTER IN LONDON

DENMARK said yes to the Maastricht treaty last night, with the first referendum votes counted predicting 55.8 per cent in favour and 44.2 per cent against.

"No" campaigners conceded defeat. Drude Dahlerup of the anti-treaty June Movement said: "It's clearly a disappointment. It's a historic decision going the wrong way."

As the Danes' European partners breathed a sigh of relief, John Major prepared to speed Britain's ratification of the treaty. The prime minister, encouraged that the most significant hurdle in the path of ratification had been cleared, appealed to the Conservative party to close ranks after a period in which it has risked being torn apart over Europe.

The Danes' decision firmly reverses last year's narrow and unexpected rejection of the treaty. A Gallup survey re-

end of July. The clear desire of Mr Major and his colleagues is that the internal battle should be well out of the way before the October party conference.

The Lords stages are expected to be concluded in the middle of July and the government will swiftly stage the Commons debate on the social chapter that it was forced to concede last month to avoid defeat.

Formal ratification may have to wait until a potentially lengthy court battle to be launched by the Tory rebels. But ministers believed last night that they could at last see the end of an ordeal that has dogged Mr Major since his general election victory last year.

The prime minister came within just three votes of a defeat that some of his friends believed would have led to his resignation when the Commons debated Maastricht last November. He staved off defeat with a pledge to rebels that the third reading on the Maastricht bill would not take place until after the Danish second referendum.

That vote will now take place tomorrow and the government is certain of a comfortable victory because of the Labour leadership's decision to abstain as it did on the original second reading vote a year ago.

With Danish ratification over, and only a technical hitch to be resolved in Germany, the spotlight immediately returned last night to Britain where the Eurosceptics are planning their campaign for the House of Lords debates on the bill. Baroness Thatcher and Lord Tebbit will be to the fore in a last-ditch attempt to win a referendum, but ministers are confident that they will be defeated.

The Euro-rebels gave notice last night that they would not surrender until the last vote in the Lords had been taken and the final judgment of the courts delivered.

Mr Major's satisfaction was enhanced because of his close involvement in the deal struck at the Edinburgh EC summit in December that gave Denmark opt-outs on defence, the single currency and citizenship that clearly helped the Danish government to reverse last June's first plebiscite.



Vote for Europe: the Danish prime minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, voting in Copenhagen. "No" campaigners conceded as the polls closed

Mr Major called on Tory MPs last night to put their wrangling behind them. But the rebels refused to bow. James Cran, Tory MP for Beverley and one of the leading tacticians in the anti-Maastricht fight, said the campaign had succeeded in slowing down the whole process and denied EC leaders a "knock-out blow". He added: "The leaders of the Community will be walking on eggshells from now on when they speak about Maastricht."

Opponents in Denmark too declared that they would continue to fight the treaty. As well as ratification in Britain, it faces legal challenges in Germany and Denmark.

The former foreign minister

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said that Denmark's position in the EC would still be uncertain because "such a big proportion of Danes are opposed to Maastricht".

The result is a political triumph for Mr Rasmussen, who took office last January and has successfully swung key groups of voters behind the treaty. An opinion poll released yesterday suggested that around 8 per cent of Danish voters have changed their minds about the treaty in the past year.

Three quarters of those are either members of the social democratic party, Denmark's largest, or women. Both groups voted heavily against the treaty last year. The final

result on June 2, 1992, gave the "No" campaign a narrow edge by 50.7 per cent to 49.3.

Mr Rasmussen was the architect of a seven-party agreement backing a shopping list of special Danish exemptions from the treaty which was agreed by the EC's Edinburgh summit, chaired by Mr Major, last December. The footnotes tacked on to the treaty exempt Denmark from joining any future European army, a single currency, common EC citizenship or joint immigration policies. Denmark's "No" campaign argued that the deal was legally unenforceable, but polls suggest that it eased voters' worries. The former prime minister Poul Schluter said

that the key to Denmark's change of mind was the positive treatment it received from its Community partners.

The campaign pitted Danish dislike of EC integration in general, and of political union in particular, against the political parties' conviction that a small country cannot afford to be left out of a developing EC. Mr Rasmussen's campaign laid heavy emphasis on the importance of remaining in the mainstream of European integration for the sake of the country's youth, investment and employment.

German shadow, page 11
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Mitterrand
mocks
low-speed
British
rail linkFROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH
IN PARIS

SPEEDING across northern France at the controls of a super-express yesterday, President Mitterrand, the son of a railwayman, could not resist mocking the insularity of the English.

He said train travellers from France to England were in for a shock when they try to use the Channel link which opens next year. "They will race at great pace across the plains of northern France, race through the tunnel on a fast track and then be able to daydream at very low speed, admiring the (English) landscape and countryside... until the day when someone over there in London decides to harmonise the way of doing things between the Continent and the island."

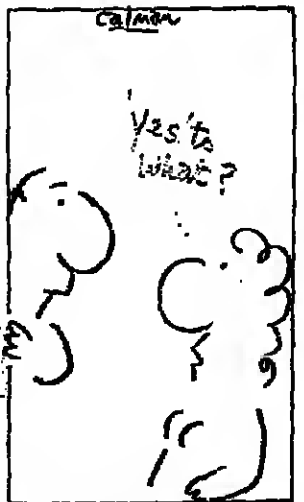
Inaugurating the new TGV bullet-train link to the northern city of Lille, Mitterrand compared what he saw as the march of progress in France with the slow pace of English trains and decision-making.

He took the controls of the locomotive for ten minutes on the way to Lille, where the mayor, the former premier Pierre Mauroy, has fought hard to transform the city into a communication crossroads. Central to his vision is the new TGV station, built at the axis of the Paris-Brussels and London-Cologne rail links.

"For two centuries men had dreamed of this link. Inaccessible England would be reached by peaceful means," the president said.

The TGV-Nord line, which will be extended next year to the Channel tunnel, cuts travel time from Paris to Lille by half an hour to 58 minutes. But while French locomotives can already hurtle along at 250mph, the English high-speed line will not be ready until after the year 2000.

Leading article and
Letters, page 17



leased as polls closed predicted a "Yes" to the treaty by 57-43 per cent. The result will give new impetus to the long fight by the European Community's leaders to ratify Maastricht in all 12 member states.

Denmark's prime minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, said this week that he hoped that the treaty could operate from January next year.

Mr Major told the annual dinner of the CBI last night that the Danish endorsement of Maastricht was good for British jobs and exports and for Britain's future. At Westminster, senior ministers voiced confidence that the Maastricht bill would be through Parliament before the

Pressure grows for
Allitt public enquiry

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major faced increasing demands last night for a second look at the government's decision to hold a private enquiry into the Beverly Allitt murder case.

The prime minister was embroiled in a Commons clash with John Smith as the Labour leader backed a call from the parents of the nurse's murdered victims and from nursing staff for an open investigation.

Officials confirmed that the decision to hold the enquiry in private was taken after Sir Cecil Clothier, appointed to conduct an independent investigation, told ministers of his view that people would be more willing to speak to his investigation than to a public enquiry. It was indicated that if he changed his view, the government would consider his advice.

The prime minister told the Commons: "We want a rigorous and swift enquiry. We

want an enquiry that will deal with the most important thing of all: that is an enquiry that gets at the truth."

There were Labour allegations of a "cover-up" and Mr Smith said the form of the enquiry should be the government's responsibility, not Sir Cecil's. He spoke of the anger and apprehension among parents that it should be possible for a nurse with a known psychiatric disorder to destroy the lives of children in her care. "In view of the appalling negligence that has obviously occurred, why is the government refusing to have a full public enquiry with the powers to require the evidence of witnesses on oath and compel the disclosure of all documents?" Mr Major said Sir Cecil's enquiry was likely to be the most effective.

Matthew Parris, page 2
Parents' appeal, page 5
Leading article, page 17

Top profit,
top increase
for M&S

MARKS & Spencer yesterday

gave staff a 6 per cent pay rise, more than double the national average, after record pre-tax profits of £737 million, £148 million more than in 1991 (Susan Gheerist writes).

Sir Richard Greenbury, M&S chairman, praised the contribution of his staff, whose efforts enabled the group to topple Sainsbury's as Britain's most profitable retailer. He said: "We treat them well, but by God they treat us well."

Pay settlements are at their lowest since the Confederation of British Industry started collecting figures 13 years ago. In the first three months of the year the average rise in manufacturing was 2.5 per cent, and 2.8 per cent in the service sector (including retailing).

BA's pre-tax profits fell from £434 million to £185 million for the year to March 31. Operating profits fell from £344 million to £310 million.

Russia drops peace
plan for Bosnia

By MICHAEL BINYON, AND TIM JUDAH IN PALE

ACKNOWLEDGING disarray over the Bosnian civil war, Russia yesterday called off its proposed meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

The Russians accepted that the allies had not yet concerted their plans, and brushed away suggestions that Moscow had

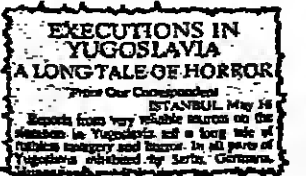
ministers. He hoped that the ministers could meet later.

Mr Christopher on Monday placed responsibility for resolving the conflict on Europe's shoulders. Calling it a "problem from hell", he said it was at heart a European one: "We will not act alone."

After meeting presidents Tudjman of Croatia and Izetbegovic of Bosnia, Mr Kozirev held talks in Belgrade on placing UN monitors along the border between Serbia and Bosnia. The Croat and Bosnian leaders then met Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the successor to Cyrus Vance as UN negotiator. Lord Owen gave a warning that Bosnia could be torn apart like Lebanon.

General Philippe Morillon, commander of UN forces in Bosnia, said he expected a breakthrough to ending the Sarajevo siege early next week.

Bosnia sidelined, page 12



On This Day, page 19

been snubbed by America's unwillingness to attend. Andrei Kozirev, Russia's foreign minister, yesterday met Croat and Muslim leaders in Split after contacting Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, over the proposed New York meeting of foreign

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Spending watchdog starts enquiry into warship contract

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN INDEPENDENT investigation was started yesterday into Swan Hunter's loss of a Royal Naval contract, which threatens to kill off Tyneside's shipbuilding industry.

Sir John Bourn, the public spending auditor, agreed to conduct the enquiry after an emergency meeting of the Commons defence committee asked him to question defence officials about their decision to award the helicopter carrier order to VSEL. After allegations by some MPs about the handling of the contract, the committee has asked Sir John to find out why there was a £50 million disparity between bids by VSEL at Barrow-in-Furness and Swan Hunter.

Receivers were called into Swan Hunter last Thursday after the government awarded the contract to VSEL. The decision puts at least 2,200 jobs on Tyneside at risk.

The action by the Tory-dominated committee to call

in Sir John is embarrassing ministers who had brushed aside Labour complaints about the difference in the bids. John Major told the Commons last week that he could not reject VSEL's bid because it was "many tens of millions of pounds" below the tender put in by Swan Hunter.

Under pressure in the Commons yesterday, Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, said his officials would be "more than happy" to show Sir John's auditors the figures.

Jonathan Aitken, the defence procurement minister, assured MPs that the contract was "very fairly won in open competition by VSEL".

As both firms put in tenders of about £170 million last year, the committee has asked Sir John to track the negotiations leading to the final bids. Sir John, the comptroller and auditor general, accepted the committee's brief yesterday and is to examine all the offi-

cial papers on the deal. After he has reported to the committee, it will question officials. Although committee MPs are sceptical that their enquiry will change the carrier decision, they believe that further orders could be awarded to Swan Hunter if faults are found in the tendering process.

Sir Nicholas Bonsor, the committee chairman and Conservative MP for Uppingham, said yesterday: "Obviously, it is a matter of concern that Swan Hunter is at risk. Certain allegations have been made about the way the contract was tendered."

Talks continued yesterday between defence officials and the receivers Price Waterhouse, who moved into the yard last week. The only guarantee appears to be that work could continue up to the end of next week on the three frigates being built. The receivers later confirmed that agreement had been reached with the ministry over the workforce's pay for the next two weeks.

Neville Trotter, Conservative MP for Tynemouth, said yesterday: "The difference in the bids, said to be well over £50 million, is quite staggering and there have been allegations that the management of Swan's that they are unhappy with the way the bid was handled."

News of the defence committee's action delighted Labour MPs who had been suspicious about the handling of the contract. Nick Brown, Labour MP for Newcastle upon Tyne East, said: "A swift investigation will almost certainly uncover the facts. Whatever else the competition was, it was not fair. I am certain that the VSEL bid has effectively been subsidised to the tune of about £25 million."

Speaking on BBC Radio's *The World At One*, Mr Brown speculated that VSEL had used profits from the Trident submarine programme to underpin its bid for the carrier. "Effectively, it has been subsidised by the British taxpayer who has paid for the Trident submarine programme on what is a cost-plus contract," he said.

The BBC's *World At One*, said there were always complaints at the federation conferences. He acknowledged that morale might need lifting and believed that could be achieved by creating a more modern force.

The strongest attack on him came from Michael Bennett, chairman of the London branch of the federation, who compared Mr Clarke to King Herod. Mr Bennett said the secretary was part of a government which, by putting carpets in prisons and cardboard on the streets, had shown where its priorities lay.

Alan Eastwood, federation chairman, had supported the possibility of trade union rights. He said the issue lay in proposals that reduced the police to ordinary employees rather than servants of the Crown.

Clarke under attack at police conference

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

PUTTING Kenneth Clarke in charge of policing was like putting King Herod in charge of Mothercare, a conference representing 120,000 junior police officers was told yesterday.

The fierce personal attack on the home secretary came as the Police Federation, the largest police organisation in the country, debated his controversial proposals for reforming police discipline. The conference deferred a decision on seeking trade union rights but applause greeted every criticism of Mr Clarke, who addresses the conference today.

Yesterday there were warnings that the police would lose their independence and fall under political control, and suggestions that police stations might one day face a picket line.

Mr Clarke, speaking on

Prince endures a day of wrong turns



Mission accomplished: the prince meets veterans of the 1944 uprising in Warsaw

Tour flusters Polish hosts

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE best-laid plans of host and guest went awry yesterday when the Prince of Wales, on an official visit to Poland, arrived to lay a wreath at one of Warsaw's most hallowed memorials. His convoy took him to the wrong place.

They had the right monument, but the wrong side. A Polish soldier holding the prince's wreath, numerous standard-bearing veterans of the 1944 uprising against the German invaders, a guard of honour and four drummers

were drawn up on one side of the memorial to receive the prince, pawns in a manoeuvre of military precision that had been months in the planning. The royal motorcade howe into view. Heels were snapped, postures stiffened. The motorcade approached: numerous British Embassy Jaguars, and a stretch Volvo bearing the prince, insisted on by the Polish authorities because they decreed the Jaguars insufficient protection against terrorist attack. A pity, as part of the prince's mission is to boost British exports.

The convoy, for some inexplicable reason, veered off at the last minute and deposited the prince at the far side of the monument. "What the bloody hell is going on?" shouted a British Embassy official, flustered and running. The soldier bearing the wreath had to sprint 50 yards to a new position, and the elderly standard-bearers had to shuffle off and reform their parade on the other side of the memorial.

Prince and wreath-bearer were hastily reunited, while embassy staff engaged in

whispered argument with Polish security officials. The prince's personal detective, Inspector Ian MacRae, joined the fray, demanding an explanation. The best offered was that distinguished guests laying wreaths can draw up at either side of the memorial, and yesterday just happened to be a right-hand day. The British probably thought that three days off a full moon, it was a left-hand day.

The prince appeared oblivious to the confusion, and solemnly laid his wreath. But the incident took its toll. Shortly afterwards, mounting the rostrum at Warsaw University to address staff and students in a hall that was far from full, the prince collided with a potted plant.

He won his audience's sympathy, however, when he attempted a quotation in Polish from the writer Juliusz Slowacki which translates, somewhat impenetrably: "A flexible tongue should express what the head thinks." On what he thought of the memorial mix-up, the royal tongue remained diplomatically inflexible.

Patten tells heads to give a lead

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Patten yesterday reminded head teachers and school governors of their legal obligations over next month's school tests in an attempt to rescue as much as possible of this year's exercise.

In letters to every state school, the education secretary called on heads and chairmen of governing bodies how to cope with a test boycott by classroom teachers. The head teachers' associations have warned him that the tests will be impossible to administer if the boycott goes ahead.

Mr Patten said that governors would have done all that could be reasonably expected of them if they took four steps: gave a clear lead that the tests should go ahead, satisfied themselves that teachers had been reminded of their contractual duty to carry them out, considered other ways of administering the tests after a boycott, and passed pupils' results to the DoE.

"We owe it to our children to see to it that their progress is reliably tested on a regular basis so that strengths can be consolidated and weaknesses addressed," Mr Patten said. Decisions on the streamlining of future tests and associated marking arrangements should draw on the practical experience gained this year.

Industrial action by the three main classroom teachers' unions is already hitting preparations for next month's tests at 14, and has halted the collation of results in many primary schools.

Child care chairman is sacked

By RAY CLANCY

COUNCILLORS in Orkney yesterday sacked the woman who chaired the island authority's social services committee during the period when nine children were taken from their homes on South Ronaldsay in dawn raids. The move was welcomed by the community, which has been calling for action over the handling of the cases.

Mairi Trickett was voted out of office by 13 votes to nine at an acrimonious meeting in Kirkwall. She claimed that she had been hounded out of her job. "I have been harassed and bullied in letters and phone calls. I've had to go through an awful lot but during that time most of you have sat back and let me take it," she told the meeting.

"You as a council have never publicly backed me even though you knew what I was going through. You've decided to throw me out and there's only one reason — pressure from a small but eloquent group of people in South Ronaldsay."

Mrs Trickett, who remains a councillor, was regarded as having become too close to the social work department. Her removal comes a week after Paul Lee, the director of social work, was suspended following the publication of an internal council report into the scandal.

Councillors and the people of South Ronaldsay said they hoped to be able to work with the new chairman, councillor Alasdair Thom, who helped draw up the report.

Matthew Parris

POLITICAL SKETCH

The wolf huffs but House is unmoved

John Smith entered the Chamber yesterday clad in the silk tie, conservative suit and benign smile of a political godfather. Taking his seat on he beamed at junior colleagues, adjusted his spectacles — heavy, black-rimmed — and began to study his notes.

Margaret Beckett, his deputy, was already there. She looked up adoringly but with a hint of concern, recoiling ever so slightly as the dark-flannelled Smithian bottom descended towards the green leather. Dressed in scarlet, she resembled Little Red Riding Hood. Smith, eyebrows glowering, resembled the wolf. Had Mrs Beckett observed "my, what busy eyebrows you have", and the Labour leader replied "all the better to see you through", we should hardly have been surprised.

But Mr Smith's teeth were sharpened for a different prey. Whom should he spy, lost in the woods, but a Tory babe? Young John Major's picnic has gone rather awry this May. Overtaken by a storm, the infant prime minister has been wandering through the trees in search of shelter, but shelter there is none. The Labour wolf, spectacles glinting, caught his eye.

"Mr John Smith," called Madam Speaker. Up leapt the wolf, pawing at the dispatch box. Young Major shuddered, clutching his hamper of sandwiches and civil service briefing notes.

Now came the assault. It concerned the murders committed by a nurse in Grantham, presently filling the news. We do not treat lightly the real tragedies that occur to real citizens when we remark that in the paws and claws of party politicians, sympathy takes on a chilling edge. There is always something revolting about the condolence of

MPs. The enquiry may sound kindly, but from beneath the frilly bonnet we glimpse a flash of white tooth, a tuft of furry snout.

Mr Smith wanted to know why young Major had not arranged a "full public enquiry" into circumstances surrounding the Grantham killings. The question fell narrowly on the right side of good taste: it was just about permissible. Young Major, who was accompanied yesterday by Mrs Virginia Goldlocks, reeled under the wolf's attack and began to stammer something about Sir Cecil Clothier (who is heading the enquiry) having advised that his investigations would proceed better if private. Goldlocks nodded.

The wolf would have done better if he had left it at that. But we are dealing here with a very buffing and puffing kind of wolf: once he gets his teeth in — even if only, in error, into a sleeve or walking stick — he cannot let go, but shakes his prey all about, snuffing and moralising. This Mr Smith did for some time, to little purpose. Young Major's companions on the Tory picnic began to raise the alarm, shouting Shamel Withdraw! Resign! Little Red Riding Beckett glanced anxiously up at her vulpine friend. On and on he snuffed.

A sharp word from Major at this juncture — a masterful dislaid — could have punctured the wolf's performance. Luckily for Labour the Tory babe played along, whiffling and stammering about Sir Cecil.

"Why on earth, snuffie, snuffie, buff puff..." "But Sir Cecil says..." We leave them there, for all we know snuffling and stammering still. Happily, this assault, at least, was only a pantomime.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Group 4 turns to PR for a better image

Group 4, the security company whose record since starting to run a privatised prison escort service has made it a national joke, has hired two public relations companies to limit the damage to its corporate image. The move comes only three weeks after it appointed a former prison governor who had no training in dealing with the media as executive director of communications.

As Group 4 took action to combat the bad publicity that has caused alarm among senior managers, the leaders of the Prison Officers' Association threatened to stop co-operating with the government over its plans for more private-sector management in the penal system. Delegates at next week's annual meeting of the association are to be asked to consider a ballot of 27,000 prison officers recommending industrial action over further privatisation.

Inmate on leave flees

Police are hunting a convicted robber who went on the run after being told to find his way to his new jail. Police want to question Peter Roberts, 31, about two robberies in Bristol since he failed to turn up at a city hostel for weekend "home leave" between imprisonment at the closed Erlestoke prison, in Wiltshire, and Leyhill open prison, Bristol.

Protest at tree-felling

Residents of Charles Street in Mayfair, one of London's most exclusive streets, have protested bitterly because a 200-year-old lime tree was chopped down at dawn in the grounds of Ancaster House, a £20 million mansion. Protected by a preservation order, the tree had been declared unsafe by Westminster City Council.

Timex protest sequel

Thirty-three people appeared at Dundee Sheriff Court yesterday after more than 2,000 demonstrators were involved in violent clashes with 500 police outside the Timex plant on Monday, where they were addressed by Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader. Right, all pleaded not guilty to various charges and were bailed on condition they all stayed away from Timex, and most from Dundee.



Five murder charges

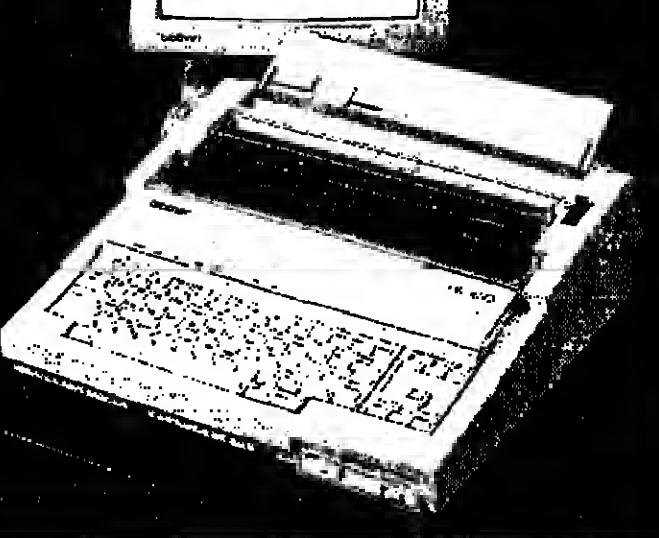
A man appeared in court in Armagh yesterday charged with murdering five people, including a father and son and husband and wife. Lawrence Maguire, 30, from Moira, co. Down, was also accused of attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, possessing a loaded assault rifle with intent and membership of the illegal Ulster Volunteer Force. The murder charges relate to killings in Portadown in March last year. May last September and Dungannon in January. Maguire was remanded in custody until June 11.

Runaway car kills baby

A baby in a pushchair died and five people were injured when a car careered through pedestrians outside King's College, Cambridge, yesterday in front of tourists. The girl was killed instantly and her mother and two others were seriously injured. Police were last night waiting to talk to an elderly Canadian couple who were in the car.

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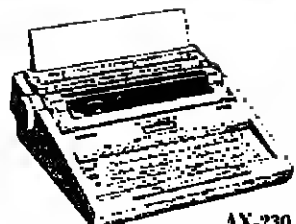
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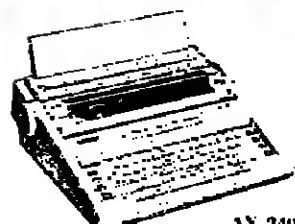
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Oxford dons strike a blow for women

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN academics and their supporters struck a blow for equal rights at Oxford University yesterday by blocking plans for 15 new professorships, which they feared would go to men.

Congregation, the university parliament, supported their demands for the creation of more junior appointments, which are more likely to be filled by female candidates.

The university had put £100,000 aside for promotions, and planned to use the money to add to its 195 professors. But the issue split the academic community and became a test case for Oxford's commitment to expanding openings for women.

Only six of the university's professors are women. Critics of the plan argued that new appointments would further entrench male domination of Oxford. At a rare meeting of Congregation, more than 250 dons voted by a margin of five to one to put the money into readerships, the academic grade from which most Oxford professors are drawn.

The university council will decide on Monday whether to hold a postal vote on the issue, as only about 10 per cent of the university's academic staff attended yesterday's meeting. But the clear margin of victory makes it more likely that the decision will be accepted. Al-

A revolt by women academics at Oxford will force the university to reverse its plans to create more professors

though no new professors had been appointed under the university's proposals for this year, some candidates had been identified and references were taken up. The faculties will now seek nominations instead for promotions from among the ranks of lecturers. Almost one lecturer in five is female, a higher figure than the national average, and 30 per cent of last year's academic appointees at Oxford were women. But only 4 per cent of non-clinical professors are women, and relatively few women have been made readers.

John Gardner, a Brasenose College law lecturer, told Congregation: "I think there is a sound case for the present promotions exercise being unlawful. The spirit of equal opportunities ought to be penetrating all university practices by now. These exercises are not the actions of an employer who is in the business of equal opportunities."

Emma Westcott, women's officer for Wadham College, said: "It is unfortunate that this university is putting its prestige first and being a fair employer second."

Jeffrey Hackney, the chairman of the general board,

which took the decision to create new posts, said that decades of neglect would not be corrected by appointing more women readers. "Professorships are good because they confer a title which has national and international recognition. I do not accept the argument that the present exercise is discriminatory against women," he said.

Sir Richard Southwood, the vice-chancellor, said: "The majority of members of the university seem to have expressed their feelings about the exercise and I am sure the authorities will take that into account."

A national survey published yesterday by the Association of University Teachers showed that only one professor in 20 in the old universities is a woman. Male professors earned on average £1,500 more than the women.

David Triesman, the association's general secretary, said the imbalance was a "national scandal" and women in the academic world faced Victorian attitudes. Almost half of all female professors were paid in the lowest band, of up to £34,000, compared with only a fifth of male professors, he said.



Into the fray: dons turn up at the Sheldonian Theatre for yesterday's meeting of Congregation

Lamplugh sister fled airman set on suicide

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE sister of Suzy Lamplugh, the missing estate agent, escaped from a French air force deserter who tried to steal her car for a suicide crash, a court was told yesterday.

Antony Bourgois, 20, from Boulogne, had absconded from base and came to England planning to steal a car — although he could not drive — and to strap a knife to his body before crashing it, Oxford Crown Court was told.

By coincidence, he chose Lizzie Lamplugh, 22, sister of the London estate agent Suzy Lamplugh, who disappeared while showing a house to a man known as Mr Kipper.

Bourgois approached Lizzie Lamplugh, a publishing assistant, as she parked outside her Oxford home, David Bright, for the prosecution, said.

Miss Lamplugh had felt something sharp against her neck, a knife with the words Levi Eworp — an anagram of evil power — on it.

Bourgois had ordered her into the back of the car. He had asked how to use the car and she had slipped away to neighbours after telling him that she needed something from the boot, Mr Bright said.

Bourgois admitted imprisoning Miss Lamplugh and having an offensive weapon. He denied trying to kidnap her. The prosecution asked for that charge to stay on the file.

The case was adjourned to a date to be fixed so that Bourgois could be remanded for hospital assessment.

Stephens returns to mountain of offers

By NICHOLAS WATT

WHILE Rebecca Stephens was making her way down from the summit of Everest, her office in London received calls from three publishers anxious to clinch a book deal.

And as the first British woman to conquer the world's highest peak recovered at the base camp yesterday, potential employers and marketing men started to express an interest.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes thought Miss Stephens, a journalist, had an excellent story to tell, but said that he would have to deliver a manuscript by July 31.

A leading literary agent thought that her book would do well, although it would struggle to top the best-seller lists. "I would like to hear what drove her to the top."

Chris Borington, who climbed Everest at 50, thought Miss Stephens would struggle to make a living from endorsing mountaineering products. "If Rebecca had got out a famous lipstick on the summit she would have made lots of money. But I'm sure she didn't do that."

However, the companies that provided Miss Stephens' equipment said yesterday that they were interested in using her in advertising campaigns.

Jan Southworth of Karrimor said: "I'm sure that is something we will be discussing on her return."

Miss Stephens herself was perplexed by the interest in her achievements. Peter Earl, the expedition leader, said: "She has no idea what she is coming back to. She is dumbfounded and says she has just climbed a mountain."

An exhausted Miss Stephens arrived at the base camp at 17,500ft last night and crashed out. Before doing so she described her assault on the summit. Mr Earl said: "She said the knife-edge ridge, on the last section with thousand foot drops on either side, was awe-inspiring."



Sheep fly over fields in tornado

By NICK NUTTALL

A ROYAL Marine was killed by lightning and a tornado sucked a flock of sheep into the air when storms swept across southwest Britain.

The sheep were asleep on a farm when the tornado tore through a Welsh valley with what witnesses described as a terrible roar, scattering the animals up to half a mile away across stone walls, a river and five fields.

Six sheep died and 20 were found in another flock by a neighbouring farmer.

Bob Bailey-Green, the landlord of a pub near the farm at Pant-y-dwr, Powys, said: "Everything from corrugated sheets to branches and birds were being pulled into the whirlwind and sent flying off."

Cars and caravans were overturned as winds reached up to 100mph on Monday night. Ned Jones, on whose fields the sheep were deposited, said yesterday: "I couldn't believe my eyes. They could not have run here because there are stone walls and a river in their path."

Corporal Paul Neslen, 30, was hit by lightning on Dartmoor as he operated a radio at Moretonhampstead during training exercises. Three marines were treated for shock.

Aquanaut Sylvia Earle probes earth's other space.

In Maui a woman hangs suspended in the depths of the Pacific, eye to eye with the great humpback whales of Hawaii.

Dr. Sylvia Earle is a marine biologist, oceanographer and botanist. The sea is her element. Here she has spent more than 5,000 hours — just over 200 days. Here she explores, observes, and searches for ways to conserve marine life.

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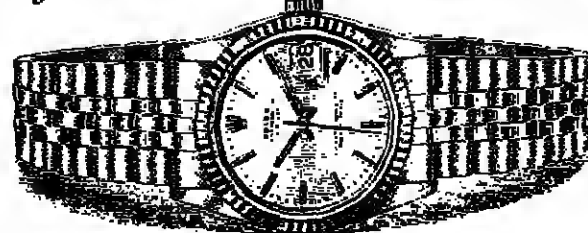
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Britons show measure of faith

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN remains a God-fearing country in spite of repeated claims from church and political leaders that religious belief has fallen in the latter half of the 20th century.

Large numbers in Britain believe in God and life after death, according to a survey published yesterday. In the survey of 19,000 people in 14 countries, all Christian except for Israel, the United States leads in belief in God, but in

Ireland more people pray daily.

Britain was eighth in belief in God and life after death but eleventh in daily prayer. The survey, carried out in 1991, shows that most people believe in God and that there is a revival of belief in life after death.

Professor Andrew Greeley, author of the report, said: "It is the reverse of everything that the theories of secularisa-

tion and religious decline lead us to anticipate. God is not dead, she is alive and well, even in Britain."

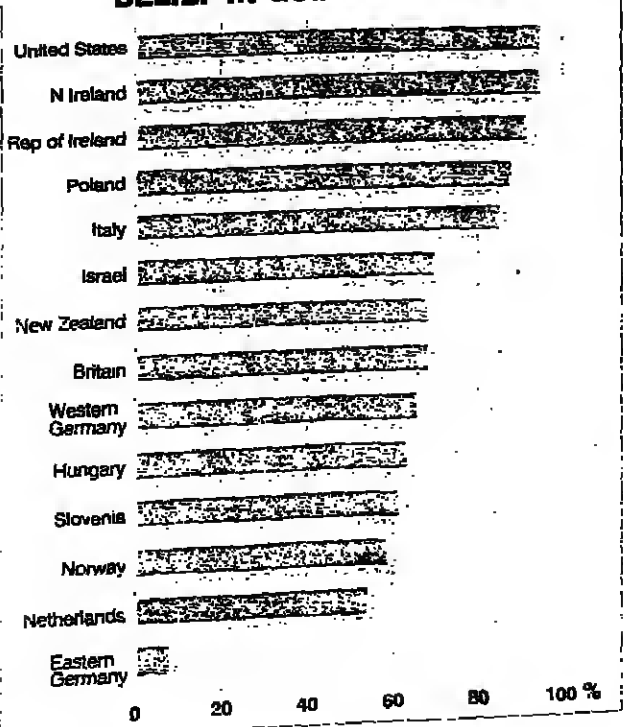
While the US and Ireland emerged as the most religious, the survey shows a resurgence of faith in the former communist countries. Professor Greeley, a Roman Catholic priest based at Chicago University, said religion not only persisted but mattered. Religious faith and devotion, as measured by belief and frequency of prayer, still had an impact on social affairs such as concern for the poor, opposition to the death penalty and personal happiness, he said.

In Britain, according to the survey, nearly 70 per cent believe in God, more than half in life after death and nearly one fifth pray daily. More than four out of ten also believe in fortune tellers and most believe in heaven. Nearly a fifth said they went to church two or three times a month.

The report was published on the day that the Archbishop of Canterbury said he was glad to be part of a church that was beginning to show signs of growth.

In a sermon to the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, the oldest clergy charity, at St Paul's Cathedral, Dr George Carey said: "The fact is that in 1991 we opened more churches than we closed. There are encouraging signs of growth around. I long to see that develop further."

BELIEF IN GOD BY COUNTRY



■ The 2000 murders of two witnesses

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Allitt enquiry must be public, say parents

■ The enquiry into the Grantham child murders must have the power to question witnesses on oath, say the victims' families

By LIN JENKINS

PARENTS of the victims of Beverly Allitt yesterday demanded a meeting with Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary. They want to challenge her decision not to hold a public enquiry into the events that surrounded the serial killings by the nurse.

They dismissed as a white-wash an internal enquiry report on the children's ward at Grantham and Kesteven Hospital. And they said they feared that the independent enquiry, under Sir Cecil Clothier QC, would be a cover-up.

Chris Taylor, whose eight-week-old son Liam was the first of the four children murdered on ward four by Allitt, said: "I ask her to put herself in our position. If her children were at a hospital where these events took place, she would want nothing less."

As well as killing the four children, Allitt attempted to kill or assault nine others.

Ann Alexander, solicitor for eight of the families, said there would be confidence in an

enquiry only if it could subpoena witnesses and question them on oath. She said that the internal enquiry report omitted some evidence known to have been before it. "They are covering up," she said.

The report, published yesterday, is strongly critical of staffing levels, recruitment procedures and management structures at the hospital.

Parents complained that it did not address how Allitt came to be employed despite her known history of self-inflicted injuries and suspicions that she was suffering from Munchausen Syndrome; nor why it took so long to detect the cause of deaths on the ward, even though children were collapsing with alarming regularity.

Delays in acting on the results of a blood test on baby Paul Crampton, which proved he had been given a massive injection of insulin, causing him to collapse, were not examined. The report did not address the failure to close the



Ann Alexander, the families' solicitor, left, with the Gibsons, centre, whose son Bradley is disabled, and the Taylors, whose son Liam is dead

ward, even when the problem was reported to senior management; nor the delay in calling in police when it was suspected something was amiss.

Miss Alexander said Trent regional health authority had continually said a public enquiry was not necessary. "They

must really be trying to hide something."

Alan Davidson, whose 11-year-old son Michael was assaulted by Allitt, described Mrs Bottomley's refusal to hold the enquiry in public as "cynical and ignorant".

He joined other parents at a press conference in Grantham

in demanding to know why management failed to act more quickly.

The internal enquiry report criticises the lack of nursing expertise among management at the hospital and the tensions between consultants and nursing staff on ward four. It says there were not

enough experienced children's nurses and too little management support on the ward.

Since the enquiry, some of its recommendations have been implemented. Allister Stewart, hospital general manager, said that an extension had opened, additional consultants been appointed

and a new management structure put in place in the past 12 months.

"We have also systematically implemented most of the recommendations in the regional enquiry report in the wake of the ward four incident."

Leading article, page 17

Murderer holds baby

THE FAMILY

BEVERLY Allitt is allowed to nurse her baby niece while being treated in Rampton Hospital, her father said yesterday. Richard Allitt, 49, believes his daughter is innocent and will ask solicitors to appeal against her convictions.

The family regularly visits Allitt and Donna, 28, allows her sister to hold Katie, her eight-month-old daughter. Mr Allitt, of Corby Glen, Lincolnshire, said: "We believe Beverly is innocent because we do not think she had it in her to do the things they say she did. She has always looked after babies in the village and lots of parents have trusted her."

"Health-wise she is not brilliant but mentally she is all right. She is upset but she is pretty calm and has some good people looking after her," he said.

Doctor suspected illness syndrome

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE medical record of Beverly Allitt reveals a disturbing pattern of behaviour as she sought treatment for a series of invented or self-inflicted injuries. Her notes make it clear that medical staff became suspicious and even suggested Munchausen Syndrome.

In September 1985, shortly after she left school, Allitt turned up at a hospital complaining of a foot injury; her toe was X-rayed.

She suffered a finger injury in the following February and in July she saw her GP, convinced that she was pregnant. When tests proved negative she was referred to an obstetrician because she refused to believe the results.

In succeeding months, there was another toe injury and three appointments were made when she complained of abdominal pain. She was admitted to hospital and claimed to have two ulcers and to have been vomiting, but staff concluded she was making herself sick.

In December, she reported a hand injury and then said she had problems when eating fat, which led to a gall bladder investigation.

The surgeon noted: "My feeling is that the symptoms are psychosomatic, reflecting



Allitt inflicted injuries on herself

Judge warns press of prison penalty

By LIN JENKINS

EXECUTIVES of three newspapers and a television programme have been ordered to appear before the judge in the Beverly Allitt trial for possible contempt of court over material published while the jury was considering its verdicts.

Mr Justice Latham, sitting at Nottingham Crown Court, made clear to the press that those who breached the law faced the risk of imprisonment as well as a fine. The *Guardian*, *The Observer*, *Lincolnshire Echo* and *BBC Look North* will appear before him on May 28 to explain why they published the material.

They all included background material that was not part of the trial, in particular comment on the personality disorder Munchausen Syndrome By Proxy from which Allitt suffers. References to her medical history had been barred by the judge at the start of the trial.

The *Guardian* last Friday published a leader on the trial when the jurors had returned only two verdicts on the murders before them and verdicts on three other charges. The leader described Allitt as a psychopath and said the ward

stress in her family circumstances.

In May the following year, physiotherapists were puzzled by trouble with her hand and did not believe her explanation. Allitt categorically denied damaging it herself.

Three months later, doctors decided not to permit further X-rays of her hand. In November X-rays were, however, taken when she said she had trapped her thumb in a car door. A letter was written to excuse her from A-level studies.

She complained of muscle strain, head injuries, double vision after a fall, a urinary infection and severe colic throughout the next two years. Allitt scored treatment including examination under anaesthetic, even though her urine retention problem was thought to be caused by her using anti-diuretics.

By June 1990, a specialist could find nothing wrong with her and said she had "hysterical symptoms".

Allitt complained of stomach pains in October 1990. She was examined with a laparoscope and her appendix was removed — although it was found to be normal. The wound became infected and doctors believed it was being tampered with.

Other complaints included high temperatures, cuts to a foot and puncture marks on a swollen breast, suggesting she had injected liquid into it.

One doctor at a hospital said in August 1991: "I'm not sure whether we are dealing with Munchausen."

But later that month Allitt was given a brain scan to check whether she had a brain tumour and was treated for other complaints.

The hospital deliberately made no follow-up appointment, believing her complaints to be fictitious.

CONTUMPT RISK

had been turned into a slaughterhouse.

On Saturday morning, the judge said he also wished to see representatives from the *Lincolnshire Echo*, which published copious background material, and *BBC Look North*, which addressed the issue of her medical condition.

On Monday, he added *The Observer* to the list after an article on Munchausen Syndrome. In all cases, he made sure the jury had not seen the articles. He said, however, that he did not wish to restrict reading or viewing as it would only add to the strain.

He would be seeking an explanation from all four organisations. "Any reporting beyond the facts of the case in respect of those cases where the jury has already delivered their verdicts would amount to contempt of court. If any report which does amount to a contempt is published, those concerned in the decision to publish face the risk of imprisonment plus the risk of a fine."

Media, page 32

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Culprits often sons or husbands

Minister acts to halt abuse of old people

By JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

GROWING concern over the problem of abuse of the elderly has led the government to issue guidelines to local authorities. The issue is difficult to handle because victims may suffer from dementia or other illnesses and be unaware that they are being abused, experts said yesterday.

Dr Jonathan Fisk, of Aire-ale General Hospital, Keighley, West Yorkshire, said that physical abuse of elderly people was more widespread than had been thought and took many forms. Research in America suggested that about 4 per cent of people aged over 65 were abused, but this was likely to be an underestimate.

"Those at high risk are thought to be female, aged over 75 years, physically frail, mentally incompetent, socially isolated and more ready to adopt a sick role," he told a Royal College of Psychiatrists briefing in London. "Abusers appear more likely to be aged less than 50 years, living with

the victim, very commonly sons or husbands, in poor mental health and with a history of alcohol abuse."

Abuse took the form of verbal, sexual or physical assault or it could be negative — the removal of food, warmth, affection, security or money. "Victims may fear revenge if they talk or may know that the abuser represents their only chance of remaining in their own home," he said.

Dr Susan Benbow, of Manchester Central Hospitals and Community Care NHS Trust, said that elderly people might have accepted society's stereotype of them as lacking interest in sex. They would also have grown up at a time when society was less open about sexual matters. As a result, abuse was likely to be denied by both abuser and victim.

Dr Benbow said the abuse might occur in institutions where there was inadequate

supervision, or in old people's own homes, by a relative or carer. If an elderly victim was mentally disturbed, it might be difficult to establish what had happened. "Older adults may in any case be reluctant to talk about abuse and may fear reprisals or the loss of their home or carers," she said.

No formal procedures existed for dealing with suspected cases of sex abuse among the elderly. However, it was not necessary to prove abuse before offering help.

She called for better education of health and social care professionals about the problem, saying: "It is important that the possibility of sexual abuse of vulnerable old people by their peers and carers is recognised."

Tim Yeo, junior health minister, interviewed on the Channel 4 programme *Dispatches*, broadcast tonight, says: "This is a serious issue, and that's why we shall be issuing guidelines to all local authorities."



Faith and hope: Canon Green wants the new owner to develop South Pickenham life

D-Day beckons in Domesday village

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

A VILLAGE dating back to the Norman Conquest is to be sold for a guide price of £6 million to £10 million.

South Pickenham near Swaffham in southwest Norfolk has gone on the market as part of the sale of the Pickenham estate. The estate is among the largest to come on the market in the South of England for many years.

The package includes 3,600 acres of farmland, three farmhouses, parkland, a mansion and 27 cottages. Richard Daniels, the owner, is a businessman who started out making gardeo sheds with a £600 loan from his father. Now chairman and managing director of Richard Daniels Homes, he is selling the village to raise money for investment elsewhere.

Mr Daniels bought the house in 1986 from the Moreton family, who had lived at Pickenham Hall since 1925. He spent what the agents Knight Frank & Rutley describe as considerable sums on its restoration, and invested in the farm.

A new owner will be viewed

with some trepidation by the inhabitants of the tied cottages in the pre-Norman settlement of South Pickenham, although the law would prevent their eviction. Most did not wish to speak to strangers about the sale. In 1986, when the estate was last sold, Canon Derek Green, rector of the local church, said he hoped the estate would be bought "by someone who will develop village life, revive the community and help agriculture grow". The canon's wife said yesterday that he felt the same way now.

Mr Daniels used the house as the headquarters of his company and as a home. The 16-bedroom house was one of the last such houses to be built before the first world war. The Tudor house was replaced in 1829 with one plastered with a fine Greek Ionic portico. That house fell into disrepair, and one G.W. Taylor bought it in 1902, telling his architect to "save as much of the house as was reasonably possible, and to incorporate it into a larger house of red brick with white cornice and good chimneys".

NEWS IN BRIEF

BBC pays for libel

Brook Advisory Centres, a sex counselling charity, yesterday accepted undisclosed libel damages from the BBC over a live television programme which suggested it encouraged sex among teenagers to boost profits from the sale of contraceptives.

In the High Court, the BBC apologised for the embarrassment caused by hurtful and untrue remarks in *The Garden Party* in 1989.

Eight bailed

Eight men were granted conditional bail when they appeared before magistrates at Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, on forgery charges which followed the seizure of fake travellers' cheques with a face value of nearly £13 million at the weekend.

Rescuer dies

Vanessa Shaw, 24, who was pregnant, died as she rescued her three children from a fire at their home in Nottingham. She was trapped after pushing them out of a bedroom.

Titled role

Sir Ian McKellen is to play the title role in a £5 million screen version of *Richard III* to be filmed in London, he announced at the Cannes Film Festival.

Disrepair threatens theatres

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

MORE than 40 per cent of the nation's theatres are run-down and need urgent repairs, a study commissioned by the Department of National Heritage has found.

The survey of 95 publicly subsidised houses found many theatres trying to cope with a precarious financial position that made basic building maintenance almost impossible. The Theatres Trust, which carried out the survey, is urging the government to commit £30 million of money from the national lottery for repairs.

The report says: "Accommodation and equipment are either proving increasingly out-of-date or just wearing out... A continuing hand-to-mouth regime must inevitably result in a build-up of problems and a decline in the quality of the essential buildings and plant."

John Earl, director of the trust, said theatre managers could no longer be expected to patch up faulty buildings with "the plastic bucket, gaffer tape and wire". Some would have to close if structures were allowed to decline further. The Hackney Empire in east London requires £9 million of work; the Leeds City Varieties needs more than £1.3 million spent on it.

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Lilley backs down on benefits threat to sub-post offices

By Jill Sherman and Nicholas Wood

PETER Lilley will today bow to mounting backbench Tory pressure and tone down plans to encourage people to have their pensions paid directly into banks rather than through order books.

Amid claims by Conservative backbenchers that the proposals threaten thousands of small post offices and that the government is secretly trying to force pensioners into taking their cash elsewhere, the social security secretary will announce that he has scrapped the forms that triggered the outcry. Mr Lilley will tell the Commons that new forms will be drawn up giving pensioners a clear choice between different methods for receiving their benefits.

In a move that will be seen as a further signal of the government's willingness to listen to criticism, John Major paved the way for the dimming of the scheme by telling MPs that the government was committed to maintaining a national network of post offices.

To cheer from the Conservative benches he added: "Pensioners will continue to be able to receive their pensions from the post office. We have encouraged them to make payments into their bank on a voluntary basis, but it is not the government's policy to remove the right of pensioners to receive their pensions from the Post Office."

David Madel, the Conservative MP for Bedfordshire South West, and a leading critic of the original scheme, said that he had been reassured by the prime minister's statement. "The leaflet from the Federation of Sub-Postmasters caused a lot of anxiety, but that clear statement from the prime minister will dispel all anxiety," he said.

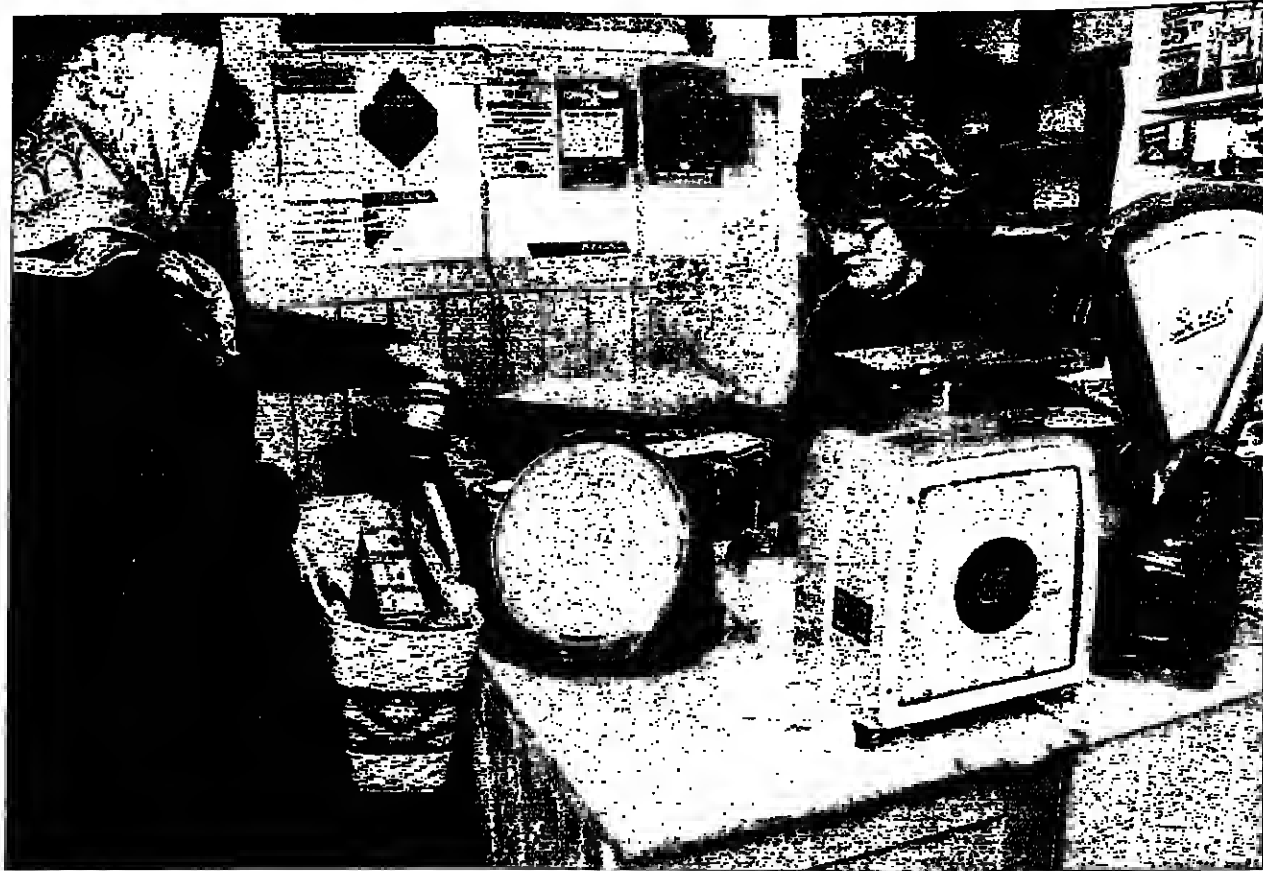
Mr Madel was speaking after he and a succession of Tory backbench critics of the scheme were called in by Mr Lilley to hear his revised proposals.

The outcry over Mr Lilley's initial plans, which officials claim could save more than £500 million, followed a pilot study in the northwest where three different forms were sent out to people approaching retirement. The forms leaned heavily towards payment by automated credit transfer, with one form not even mentioning that pensions could still be paid through post offices.

Last week MPs' postbags were inundated with letters from people claiming that the forms put undue pressure on pensioners and could threaten the future of rural post offices. Today Mr Lilley will tell MPs that he will rip up all three forms and start again. Although he will make it clear that there are substantial savings to be made through automated credit transfer, and the forms will still favour this method, he will also reassure the Commons that rural post offices will not be under threat from the plans. He will point out that all sub-post offices get a flat rate fee and are not paid per transaction, so they are unlikely to lose out directly from the move.

Ministers are also understood to be examining ideas for increasing trade at post offices. One idea supported by David Harris, the Conservative MP for St Ives, would allow small post offices to act as agents for banks and building societies, which have been slimming down their network of branch offices in recent years. "It would be crazy to do anything that destroys post offices. They are an essential part of the fabric of rural life and the government should be doing all it can to boost their business and they should treat them fairly as far as DSS payments are concerned," Mr Harris said.

Trade and industry ministers are now considering allowing post offices to accept cash deposits from bank and building society customers, to install cash dispensing machines in post offices, and the restructuring of post office subsidies.



Village voice: small rural post offices may get a reprieve after pressure from Conservative backbenchers

Village shop banks on benefits payments

By Paul Wilkinson

THERE was a steady trickle of customers at the post office window inside Mike Howell's village shop yesterday. Yvonne picked up her family allowance. Mrs Smith wanted a stamp for a relative's birthday card.

Almost all of them went on to the store's mahogany-topped counter for something else: a newspaper, a packet of sweets, a quarter of tea, any one of a myriad things from hairgrips to honey which Mr Howell stocks.

"If I lost that post office, then I think I'd lose the business," said the former military policeman, who gave up working for a security firm to become his own boss 18 months ago. "If the DSS start paying people's benefits direct into a bank account instead of letting them come here to cash their cheques, I reckon I could not survive."

Today in the House of Commons Peter Lilley, the social services secretary, defends his attempt to cut out the middle man in pursuit of efficiency. It looks like an uphill struggle. The National Federation of Sub-Postmasters has been vehement in its opposition; yesterday the Country Landowners Association joined their campaign.

Mr Howell's little shop in Markington deep in rural North Yorkshire, has been an artery for the parish's 670 souls for generations. It is not just a shop, it is a social focus, on a par with the village's two pubs. Its front window is a village noticeboard, and for some too old or infirm to go further afield, a visit to Markington Post Office can be the highlight of an otherwise mundane day.

Mr Howell, 43, greets every customer by name, and there is always time for a word or two. He estimates that about 20 per cent of his trade is casual business from customers using his tiny post office counter, no bigger than an old-fashioned cinema ticket box. The Post Office pays him a salary based on its turnover. "That pays the mortgage on this place... The income from it was a major calculation when I came to buy the shop," Mr Howell said.

Markington would be hit hard if its only store was to close. The nearest shops are five miles away in Ripon. Three buses a day service the village unless one is prepared to walk more than a mile to the nearest main road to pick up a half-hourly service from Harrogate.

"How many pensioners can do that?" asked Mr Howell. "Not everyone has a car out here. A lot of the locals are elderly, retired, living on their pensions. I handle around 150 pensions a week."

He points out some people still do not have bank accounts. "Many people, especially the elderly, prefer cash. One woman remarked to me, how she liked to draw her money and then do a bit of shopping. She asked, 'How can I write you a cheque for 50p? I don't need a bank account. I don't want to go traipsing into Ripon to get my own money. These changes may be more efficient, but they don't take people into consideration.'"

Scientists set new targets

By Our Political Correspondent

JOHN Major risked a clash with Britain's scientists last night by making it clear that he wanted them to make a bigger contribution to wealth creation. Signalling a shift in policy to be set out by William Waldegrave, the public service and science secretary, in a science white paper shortly, the prime minister indicated that he wanted a bigger emphasis on applied science and less on pure research.

The new stance, which is said to enjoy the support of Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, is likely to meet with fierce resistance among leading scientists. It is also worrying Conservative policy advisers who recall Faraday's reply when asked about his discovery of electromagnetism: "What use is a baby?"

One insider said there would be a backlash from the scientific community if Mr Heseltine succeeded in diverting more of the £3.5 billion science budget from the science research councils into commercial projects.

Mr Major signalled the shake-up in a speech last night to the annual CBI dinner in London in which he promised that the whole thrust of government policy would be directed towards building a "partnership" with industry and harnessing Whitehall's energies and cash towards boosting the competitiveness of the economy.

Mr Major said he recognised that scientists could not be "trammelled to think to state decree, like some intellectual short order cook". But he added: "Within our science base there is a cornucopia of ideas, of invention, of ingenuity, just waiting to strengthen Britain's competitiveness."

Cabinet clash leaves rail scheme in doubt

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

THE future of London's £1.8 billion CrossRail project was in the balance last night as John MacGregor clashed with Norman Lamont over the funding of the scheme.

The transport secretary was said by his aides to be "fighting like mad" for the project, which has been on the drawing board for three years, would halve journey times across the capital and is widely seen as a test of the government's commitment to joint public and private funding of big infrastructure projects.

The arguments were being thrashed out at a cabinet committee meeting chaired by John Major and attended by Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary. MPs hoped the prime minister would knock heads together and arrive at a decision, although no announcement was expected last night. The proposed rail link between Paddington and Liverpool Street was announced by Cecil Parkinson, the then transport secretary, in October 1990. But the go-ahead has been delayed by wrangling over its funding.

Yesterday, Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, underlined the support for the scheme from business leaders. Speaking on BBC radio only

hours before Mr Major was due to address the CBI, he said: "We want the government to pay more attention to what we say about transport infrastructure like CrossRail in London." At the CBI dinner in London last night, Mr Major gave little away. While endorsing the idea of joint funding, he observed only that "we see the private sector contributing to CrossRail".

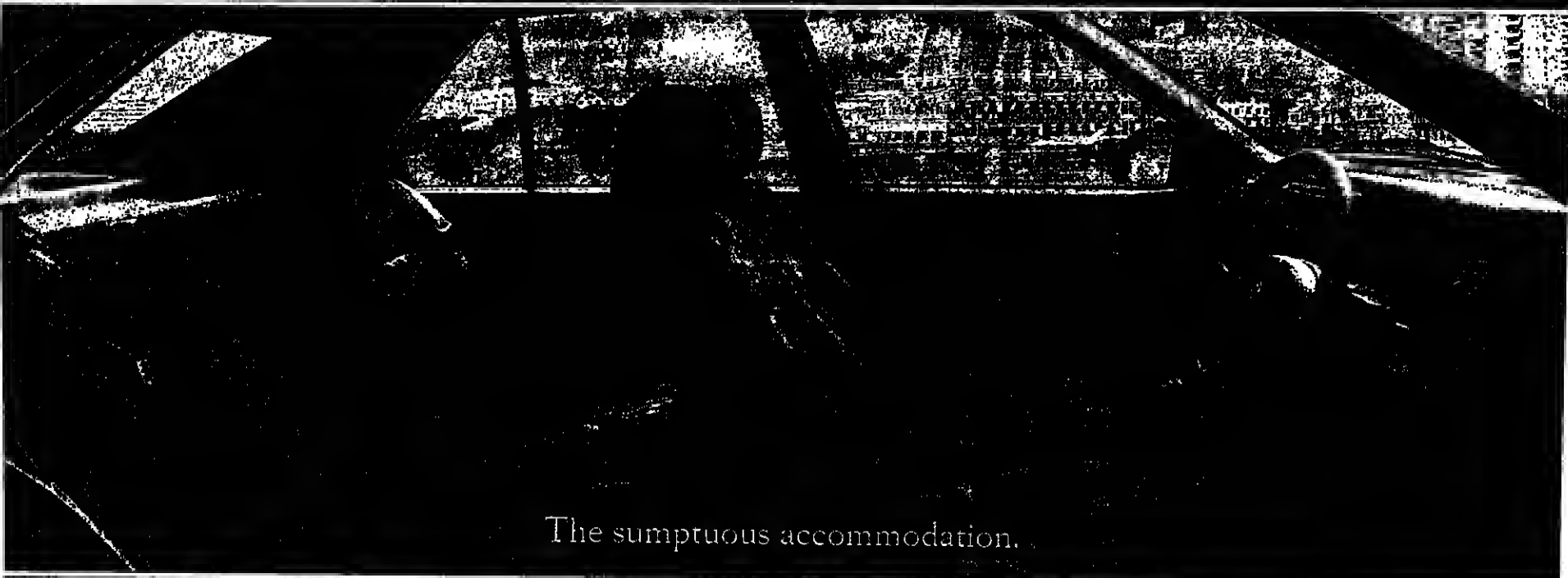
The cabinet committee meeting was considering reports from the merchant bank S G Warburg and the engineering firm Bechtel which are understood to suggest ways of saving at least £200 million.

Leading article and letters, page 17
Mitterand's score, page 1

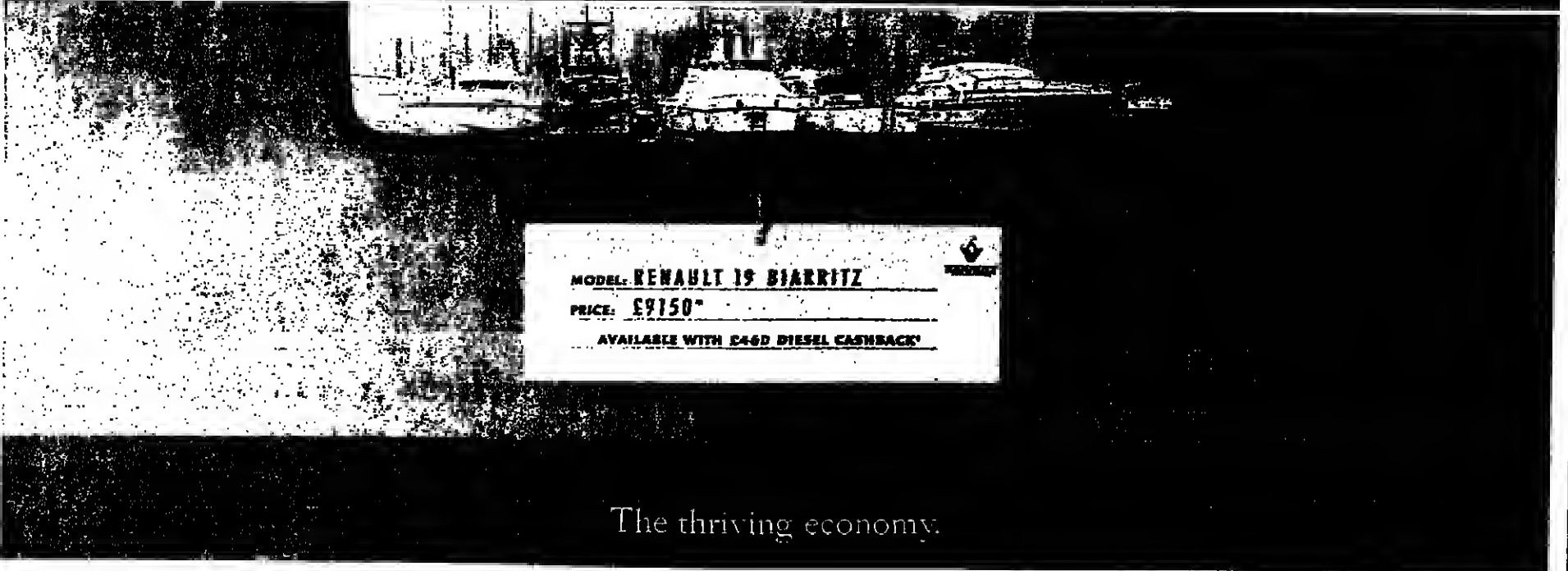
Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Questions: trade and industry. Opposition motions on threat to sub-post offices from benefit payment changes and defence manufacturing industry.
Lords (2.30): Debate on the establishment of a democratic socialist society.



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Electoral reform divides Labour

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S row over electoral reform intensified yesterday as campaigners against change claimed that the party could lose 103 seats if it opted for proportional representation.

The debate will come to a head today when John Smith declares his hand on reform at a critical meeting of the national executive committee. The committee will discuss the Plant commission's report on electoral reform which recommends dropping the first past the post system for a limited form of PR, the supplementary vote.

Yesterday the first past the post campaign, which claims the support of 86 Labour MPs, said that more than a third of the party's seats could be threatened if the Plant system is adopted.

Mr Smith, who is not a PR enthusiast, is said to support minimal change — either the supplementary vote or a similar scheme, called alternative vote. He may not opt for a

specific scheme today but he is expected to outline the case for constitutional reform and tell the NEC that he plans to hold a referendum on the issue after the next general election. The NEC, which is sharply divided, is likely to put off a decision until July. It will instead endorse a questionnaire to be sent out to constituency parties and affiliated trade unions.

The questionnaire, which will go out with copies of the Plant report, will ask respondents whether they support changing the first past the post system; whether they support a "majoritarian" or "proportional" system; and which of four options they would choose: supplementary vote, alternative vote, mixed member system or first past the post. Mr Smith is hoping that by holding a referendum he will be able to unite both sides. The party is said to be almost evenly split, with a distinct north/south divide. MPs from the south, women and new MPs lead the reform

campaign.

Derek Fatchett, MP for Leeds Central and chairman of the first past the post campaign, said that Labour would waste its first year in government obsessed by working out an electoral system. Bob Cryer, MP for Bradford South, said: "We hope the Plant commission report is quietly allowed to gather dust in the tomb of history."

The campaign's figures on lost seats are based on the number of MPs who were elected with less than 50 per cent of the vote in the 1992 general election. The supplementary vote would particularly threaten new Labour seats and seats with women MPs, Mr Cryer claimed. "Our research shows that PR would make it virtually impossible for Labour to form a majority government."

The Plant report, to be published today, also recommends a purer system of PR, based on regional lists, for the Lords and for MEPs.



Plant: enquiry into PR has left the Labour party split

Voting systems on offer

By JILL SHERMAN

THE main voting systems which the Plant committee considered and which will be set out as options in the NEC questionnaire to be completed by July, John Smith, a reluctant reformer, is said to favour either supplementary vote or alternative vote.

Supplementary vote

A limited form of proportional representation similar to the French system which the Plant committee narrowly recommended. It is only a minimal change from the first past the post system, and is not supported by PR campaigners.

Under this scheme, which is still based on constituencies, voters mark their first and second preferences. A candidate who gets over 50 per cent of the vote is immediately elected. Otherwise all but the top two candidates are eliminated and their second preferences are allocated. Dale Campbell Savours, who backs scheme, claims that Labour would have got the same number of seats, the Tories would have 32 fewer and the Liberals up to 29 more, if it had been adopted at the last election.

Alternative vote

This is a more complicated system of preferential voting but it is barely proportional and is the closest system to supplementary vote. Under this scheme voters number all candidates in order of preference. Any candidate with over 50 per cent is automatically

elected. If no one achieves that score the candidate who came bottom on first preferences is eliminated and their preferences reallocated. Candidates continue to be eliminated until one candidate gains 50 per cent-plus-one of the vote. Critics claim this could lead in the third or fourth favoured candidate "the one who people hate least".

Mixed member system

The only real proportional system under consideration. Under this scheme 500 MPs are elected under first past the post and 150 through "top up" members chosen from regional lists, which would bring a party's seats in the region in line with the proportion of seats gained. This scheme, a form of the additional member system used in Germany, was proposed by Jeff Rooker, a leading PR enthusiast. It is also supported by Lord Plant. Critics claim it would lead to two tiers of MPs.

First past the post

The status quo, backed by Margaret Beckett, deputy leader. MPs are elected on a constituency basis and the candidate with the most votes win.

Other systems

The single transferable vote, which is a purer system of PR favoured by the Liberal Democrats based on a multi-member constituency, was discounted by Plant. The NEC questionnaire allocates a space for other methods, such as this, to be suggested.

Boundary changes threaten to cut Tory majorities

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR looks certain to win a clutch of new seats in southern Britain at the next general election through changes to the parliamentary map. Boundary changes have unexpectedly added Labour-held wards to at least ten Tory constituencies so far, converting them into marginal, or even safe Labour seats.

The shift could help Labour to shrug off the charge that it cannot win seats in the south outside London. Dozens of Conservative MPs, including some ministers, are alarmed to see the commission strip away the rural wards which secured their victories at the last general election. Many of the reshaped constituencies will now encircle town centres rather than radiate out to include a mix of urban and rural communities.

The towns and cities where Labour's electoral chances have risen are Bedford, Crawley, Redditch, Swindon,

seems certain to wipe out Kenneth Carlisle's 2,049 majority as he has lost the villages surrounding Lincoln under the new boundaries.

In Worcestershire, the alterations could be critical for Eric Forth and Peter Luff. One seat will centre on Redditch, which has a clutch of Labour wards, and another on Worcester.

Both Luton's Tory MPs, John Carlisle and Graham Bright, are gloomy about their chances as their seats lose outlying villages. The changes are not dramatic for Mr Bright, John Major's parliamentary aide, but his majority was only 799. Drastic reshaping of the northern seat, held by Mr Carlisle with a 13,095 majority last year, has made it an excellent bet for Labour. Two other Tories with similar problems are John Watts, chairman of the Commons Treasury committee, in Slough, which takes in more Labour wards, and Douglas French in Gloucester.

The commission's revised recommendations for Bedfordshire also see the return of a Bedford seat. Most affected will be north Bedfordshire seat held by Sir Trevor Skeet last year with a majority of 11,618 over Labour. As Sir Trevor is 75, the second oldest Tory in the Commons, he is unlikely to stand again.

Swindon will be split into two seats with the northern constituency looking the best prospect for Labour. Changes in Plymouth, which were finalised last week, threaten to unseat Dame Janet Fookes, a deputy Speaker. The transfer of wards makes the city's Drake seat, where her majority was only 2,013 last year, even more vulnerable. As the commission's initial recommendations have been confirmed in recent months, the main parties' aides are increasingly sceptical about the original estimate that the Conservatives stand to gain about 20 seats from the exercise. The commission is reshaping constituencies, taking account of the shift in population, to contain as near as possible the magic figure of 69,281 voters.

The officials are finishing off public enquiries this summer into changes in the shire counties before announcing recommendations for cutting the number of London seats and the other big cities.



Soames: 7,765 majority in Crawley at risk

Luton, Lincoln, Worcester, Plymouth, Gloucester and Slough. Ministers at risk include Nicholas Soames, the food minister; Kenneth Carlisle, the roads minister; and Eric Forth, the Thatcherite education minister. In most of the seats the Liberal Democrats were a respectable third last year, opening up the question of tactical voting or informal two-party deals to administer a final shove to the sitting Tory MPs.

The commission has removed around 12,000 rural voters in the Crawley constituency's southern wards, which Nicholas Soames relied on for his 7,765 majority over Labour in the last election. The change has forced him to consider a switch to the new West Sussex seat. Labour

Ulster elections test mood for new talks

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN Ireland goes to the polls today in district council elections, the results of which will be seen as a referendum on the prospects for renewed inter-party talks on the province's future.

Ever since the IRA bombings in Warrington, the British and Irish governments have been trying to step up the pressure on the local parties to return to the negotiating table. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, has even claimed there is now a renewed desire across the province for reconciliation

and compromise. Today's poll, in which 582 seats will be contested across 26 districts, will test that sentiment and give a clear indication of whether serious talks are likely this year. The results will be known on Friday.

On the unionist side the Rev Ian Paisley, the DUP leader, has used the generally lacklustre campaign to bang the drum about what he claims is the planned betrayal of Ulster by the Northern Ireland Office, in an attempt to try to reverse his party's long-term decline.



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ANC policy switch raises Inkatha hope of regional rule

FROM RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG

Nelson Mandela's acceptance of democracy at every level has given a powerful boost to the talks on majority rule. A date for non-racial elections should be set soon

A SIGNIFICANT shift by the African National Congress yesterday paved the way for substantive negotiations to begin at the multiparty constitutional talks on the shape of a post-apartheid South Africa.

For the first time, the government, the ANC, the radical Pan Africanist Congress and the right-wing Conservative party agreed that the concept of self-determination should be recognised.

Until now the ANC has maintained that a future South Africa should be a unitary state and it has been dismissive of regionalism and federalism. However, a report to the 24-party negotiating council said yesterday: "It has become clear that the idea of the constitutional distribution of government powers and functions between the different levels of government has received general acceptance."

In a submission to a technical subcommittee dealing with constitutional issues the ANC said it stood for a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic state but that government should be structured at national, regional and local level. "At each level there shall be democratic representation," it emphasised.

The shift is expected to allay some of the misgivings of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party which sees its power base lying in a KwaZulu-Natal regional authority. It will also keep the white right wing in the negotiations at least for the time being although the self-determination principle will not necessarily

lead to the creation of an Afrikaner "Boerestaal". A Conservative party spokesman at the negotiating council said it feared self-determination would be abandoned later.

The committee said constitutional issues would have to be dealt with as a matter of urgency if the council were to succeed by the end of the month in setting a date for the first non-racial election before the end of next April.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, said: "The real negotiations have now begun. There is a clear idea that the issues still seen as causing an impasse could melt away." Colin Eglin, of the white liberal Democratic party, said: "We are now developing pretty vast areas of commonality."

Delegations have until today to make submissions to another subcommittee on the critical issue of political violence. Inkatha is insisting that this should be at the top of the agenda at the negotiations. It is demanding that the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, should be disbanded and has accused the government of making a "cozy agreement" on the continued training of Umkhonto members.

Rally banned: Soldiers thwarted a planned march in central Johannesburg by preventing students from leaving black townships. For the second

time in two weeks magistrates banned the protest as a threat to public peace.

The Congress of South African Students had predicted that 50,000 pupils would gather to demonstrate against examination fees. However, police and soldiers set up roadblocks in Soweto and other townships and forced young people to get off taxis bound for the city. Youths set a car on fire in Soweto.

Nearly 80,000 black, Coloured and Indian teachers have threatened to strike next Monday over a pay dispute and other issues. Students have boycotted classes in recent weeks and some protests have turned violent, with looting, arson and clashes with police.

President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela are to meet today in Cape Town to discuss the education crisis. The South African Council of Churches has also asked for a meeting with Mr de Klerk.

The meeting would be the first between the leaders since April 4 and underlines the gravity of the crisis. The central issues are a 48 rand (£10.50) fee students must pay to take examinations, and the 5 per cent rise given to teachers. Students want the fee scrapped, and teachers are demanding more money and a voice in setting educational policies. (AP)



Battle joined: Israeli police officers arresting a Palestinian yesterday where the road from the north enters Jerusalem. The man was part of a demonstration claiming for Palestinians the right to visit the holy places. The city has been forbidden to them for the past seven weeks

Killing of child puts pressure on army

FROM REUTERS
IN JERUSALEM

FARES al-Kaduri was standing beside his father in what they thought was the safety of a shop doorway when an Israeli officer wheeled round and shot at them. A bullet tore into the year-old toddler's chest, killing him.

The killing prompted the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem to warn Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, yesterday of what it called a record increase in the number of children being shot dead by the army and paramilitary police in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Fares was the 34th Palestinian child under the age of 16 to be killed by the army since the start of the sixth year of the uprising or intifada on December 9, 1992, B'Tselem said.

The army expressed sorrow at the child's death. Its account differed from B'Tselem's. It said the soldier had knelt down to shoot at the legs of a man inciting stone-throwers.

Gad Ben-Ari, Mr Rabin's spokesman, said: "There is no excuse for hurting a child. It is unfortunate and we are doing our best that it will not repeat itself." The boy was shot on Sunday in the Gaza Strip, home to 25 of the 34 victims, according to a Reuters count.

"This is a peak in the number of children killed during the same period during all other years of the intifada," B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, said. It added that a total of 221 children had been killed since the beginning of the uprising in 1987.

A Palestinian human rights group, al-Haq, put the number lower at 159, although its figures did not include victims in the past four weeks.

Chairman resigns as press condemns Indian Airlines

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE chairman of Indian Airlines has resigned amid press criticism that the carrier is the world's worst.

In four months there have been a 46-day pilots' strike, four hijackings and two crashes, including one in which 55 people died. More than 100 pilots have resigned and time-tables have become more than rough guides to proposed departures and arrivals.

It is against this background that the once unthinkable option of privatisation is being considered. The government has relaxed its monopoly by allowing private airlines to operate, and to its astonishment 10 per cent of travellers have abandoned the government airline and pilots are defecting because private operators pay more.

While most press commentators favour privatisation, the *Indian Express* voiced doubts this week that this would lead

to "corruption among ministers and bureaucrats". It predicted that the carrier would be buried "under the dead weight of loss and be cast unwanted on the junkheap by a public too scared to fly Indian Airlines".

All aircraft older than 20 years have been grounded after a crash in the western city of Aurangabad, which appears to have been caused by underpowered engines and overloading. This has thrown time-tables into further disarray.

An opinion poll conducted for *The Times of India* showed 63 per cent of passengers felt unsafe travelling by Indian Airlines. The carrier's pilots went on strike in January to back up demands for improved navigation and safety equipment.

Lakshminarayan Vasudev was the second Indian Airlines boss to resign in 16

months, after alleging political interference in management decisions. According to some accounts, he was pushed out after a dispute with Ghulam Nabi Azad, the aviation minister, whom he described as "naive and churlish".

The seven private airlines are prospering despite obstacles erected to stop them doing well. They are not allowed, for example, to publish time-tables in the press, and Indian Airlines ground staff are incited to be unhelpful to them. The civil aviation ministry argues that it hardly has enough staff for its own planes, let alone other people's.

Indian Airlines loses 2 billion rupees (£41 million) a year. Foreign tourists have all but abandoned India because of repeated outbreaks of violence in the Hindi heartland, driving the airline further into the red.

Marine family sums up debate on gays

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE dilemma of one family has come to epitomise the entire debate in America about whether homosexuals should be allowed to serve in the armed forces.

Fred Peck, an archetypal Marine Corps colonel who has just returned from Somalia, testified before a Senate committee last week that he had just been told his son was homosexual and that the news had made him more sure than ever that homosexuals should not be allowed to serve.

"He would be at grave risk if he were to follow in my footsteps as an infantry platoon leader or a company commander," Col Peck said. "I would be very fearful that his life would be in jeopardy from his own troops. I am not saying that is right or wrong. I am telling you that is the way it is."

Scott Peck, 24, a clean-cut college student, immediately hit the television talk show circuit to argue, in contrast, that homosexuals should have the right to join up. "Eventually, gays and lesbians are going to have to be incorporated into all aspects of society," he said, on the widely watched *Larry King Live* television show. Because of his parents' early divorce, Scott Peck was raised by his mother until he was 14, when she died of cancer. He then lived with his father.

When he went to the University of Maryland to read English Mr Peck moved in with Bobby Hampton, 29, an assistant in a lawyer's office, and began reporting on homosexual issues for the campus newspaper. His articles provoked one member of Queer Nation, the radical homosexual group, to embarrass Col Peck by disclosing his son's homosexuality to the media.

Mr Peck decided to broach the subject of his homosexuality with his family. Just before his father was due to testify to Congress on homosexuals in the armed forces, he told his stepmother, herself a Marine Corps major.

Col Peck telephoned to give his son his support. He left a message on his son's answering machine for both of the young men. "Hey, Scott and Bobby, sorry I missed you," Col Peck said. "I need to speak to either of you." For Scott, the message was that his father had accepted his homosexuality.

"I expected a very negative reaction," Mr Peck said. "I always complained about the stereotypes people have towards gay men and lesbians and it turns out that I had some stereotypes of my own about colonels."

Banda agrees ballot-box change in Malawi poll

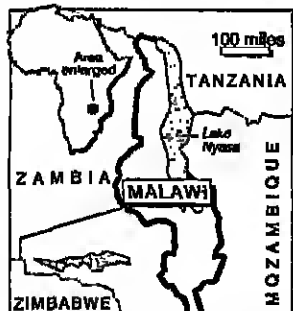
FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Malawi government has yielded to demands from pro-democracy activists that one box should be used for votes in next month's referendum on whether to end the 27-year-old one-party state, instead of "for and against" boxes.

Radio Malawi yesterday quoted President Banda as saying that he would concede the demands to "ensure to everybody that the voting is free and fair". The Public Affairs Committee, a broadly based group of citizens including the pro-democracy activists, churches and business, had challenged the government to abandon the two-box system or face a boycott that could wreck the credibility of the referendum.

While the committee, in an all-day meeting yesterday in Lilongwe, the capital, was expected to welcome the concession, doubts about the process on June 14 now focus on intimidation, which the group says has been going on unabated since Dr Banda announced the referendum.

Amnesty International said this week that the poll would not be considered free and fair unless the government took "urgent steps to guarantee basic human rights". It said pro-democracy supporters



were often arrested for distributing literature and wearing T-shirts with political statements, while prominent members of the two illegal, but officially tolerated, movements were constantly threatened with violence.

Laws meant to protect campaigners were "deeply flawed and ineffective", and anyone opposed to the government was "likely to face human rights violations". Malawian exiles returning to the country had been arrested and prominent members of the campaign received constant threats of violence, Amnesty said.

The London-based watchdog, which has been refused access to Malawi, ruled for 29 years by Dr Banda, said in a report: "Those who do speak out for multiparty democracy

are likely to face human rights violations. Unless the government takes urgent steps to guarantee basic human rights, the referendum cannot be considered fair."

Amnesty International called on the government to protect the rights of those taking part in the referendum campaign and to release Chakufwa Chihana, the trade unionist serving a nine-month jail sentence with hard labour for sedition.

"This referendum is a unique opportunity for the Malawi people to vote about their own human rights. Surely now is the time for the Malawi government to listen to the voice of the international community," Amnesty said.

Western diplomats in Lilongwe said the committee, now encouraged by its victory over the ballot boxes, could be expected to step up pressure on the government to curb the alleged excesses of zealous of the ruling Malawi Congress party.

Kinshasa: A civilian accompanied by uniformed men killed about ten people when he buried an explosive device into the crowded Gambela marketplace in the Kasavubu district of Kinshasa, the Zaire capital. (AFP)

Expanding trade in heroin spreads corruption across India and Pakistan

Bombay launders drugs cash

Christopher Thomas reports that the drugs culture of Colombia has taken root in Bombay and that Indian authorities have insufficient resources to combat it



Escobar: drugs baron still on the run

ed because police and judges accept bribes. Sharad Pawar, chief minister of Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital, said the city's drugs gangs set aside 10 per cent of profits to bribe law enforcement agencies and to cover losses from confiscation. He estimated that profits ran to 45 billion rupees (£918

million) a year. An appellate court has ruled that assets of an accused drug trafficker cannot be seized prior to conviction, allowing known drugs dealers to continue in business indefinitely, since cases take years to come to court. By then, witnesses have either disappeared or been bought off. In 1990, properties owned by 18 drug traffickers were seized; last year the figure was down to two.

India is an increasingly important transit point for drugs coming from the Golden Crescent countries to the west and the Golden Triangle to the east. Much of the trafficking is across the Rajasthan border from Pakistan, which handles most of the narcotics output from Afghanistan, the world's largest producer of raw opium.

Drugs from Thailand, where production of illegal opium is estimated to have doubled in the past five years,

are sent to India across the largely unpoliced Nepali border. Most of the narcotics routed through India are sent to America and Europe via African countries.

Some border villages are conspicuously wealthy because of their involvement with drug trafficking. Peasant farmers drive new cars and live in substantial houses. Drug enforcement agencies say convictions are rare and those sent to jail tend to be middlemen unable to pay large bribes.

Drug barons, who have traditionally used the United Arab Emirates for money laundering, have been looking for new outlets since the UAE introduced the death penalty for drugs trafficking eight months ago. India's poorly enforced laws and its corrupt legal system make it an attractive alternative.

The UN has given India \$20 million (£13 million) to modernise drugs enforcement. The narcotics control bureau has acquired computers for the first time and it has modern surveillance equipment. Previously, the attempt to halt drug smuggling across the Rajasthan border was limited to patrols on camel.

Peasants defy efforts to ban poppy harvest

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN DIR,
NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

TRIBESMEN with Kalashnikovs guard the terraced fields covered with a blanket of pink flowers as another bumper crop of poppies is ready to be harvested in Negsar valley in the Dir district of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province.

Thousands of acres of fertile land are under poppy cultivation in this mountainous district, despite the government's claim to have banned it. The tribesmen are determined to resist if government forces try to destroy the crops.

"We would fight back if anyone tries to stop us from growing poppy," said Amir Zeb, 25, brandishing his Chinese-made Kalashnikov. Amir Zeb and his two brothers have been cultivating poppy on their two acres for many years.

"What do you expect us to do if our livelihood is taken away?" Dir district is the second largest poppy-producing area in northern Pakistan. According to one estimate, it alone produces more than 100 tonnes of poppy, used to manufacture heroin. In recent

years Pakistan has become a main centre of heroin trafficking to Europe and the United States. Every summer the government's attempt to destroy poppy crops in the semi-autonomous tribal regions is met with armed resistance and results in many deaths.

The United Nations Drug Control Programme and the United States have invested huge funds to build roads and other infrastructure to coax the farmer away from poppy cultivation, but they have had little success.

"None of the other crops fetches even one-third the price of what we receive for poppy," Malik Sardar Khan, a local leader, said. The price of poppies has risen with the growth in heroin trafficking. The UN sources estimate that \$20 billion to \$30 billion worth of heroin manufactured in Pakistan and Afghanistan finds its way to Europe and the United States every year. Civil war and political anarchy in Afghanistan has exacerbated the problem.

Australian cleared of war crimes

FROM REUTERS
IN ADELAIDE

AN ELDERLY Australian pensioner wept yesterday as a supreme court jury acquitted him of charges that he murdered Jews in Nazi-occupied Ukraine during the second world war. The jury took just over an hour to reach a unanimous verdict to free Ivan Polyukhovich in Australia's first war crimes trial.

Mr Polyukhovich, 76, declined to talk to reporters as he left court at the end of the case, which opened more than three years ago. "He is extremely upset and relieved that after such a lengthy period of time it is finally all over," Craig Caldicott, his lawyer, said. "He was once very healthy and is now a shell of the man I met two and a half years ago."

Mr Polyukhovich, now an Australian citizen, tried to kill himself during the case. He had pleaded not guilty to two charges relating to incidents in 1942 near Nazi-occupied Simkhi in Ukraine. He was charged with knowing involvement in the murder of up to 850 Jews and with the murder of a Jewish woman and two Jewish children.

AMERICAN drug enforcement officials say Bombay is attracting huge amounts of narcotics money from Colombia, reinforcing the growing reputation of India as a centre for international money laundering.

Investigations into the billion-dollar securities scandal in Bombay Stock Exchange have revealed that drugs money played a key role in the fraud. It is now known that both the Cali and Medellin drug cartels used Indian bank accounts in order to launder money.

Melvin Levitsky, the US Assistant Secretary of State for international narcotics issues, was quoted by India Abroad News Service in Washington as saying that India was becoming a significant cash outlet for Colombia's drug traffickers whose leader, Pablo Escobar, is still a fugitive after escaping from a Colombian prison.

Indian officials say drug-related activity is increasing rapidly, but that the country lacks the resources to fight it, despite assistance from the United States and the United Nations drugs control project. Few drugs barons are convicted

THE TIMES
Danes come
fear of

Norway to recover
killing whales
defiance

By Michael

NORWAY
Danes come
fear of



Col Peck
Danes come
fear of

British newsmen
by Turks on border

THE TIMES
Danes come
fear of

Balancing act between Bonn domination and suspicion of European shackles

Danes confront their fear of Germany

FROM GEORGE BROCK
IN FROESLEV

IN A peaceful clearing in the pine forest north of Denmark's border with Germany, Danes commemorate a task that has haunted them for centuries: keeping Germany at arm's length.

German unification in 1990 reawoke old worries among the older generations of the country on its borders. Danes old enough to remember the second world war stop to look at the Froeslev internment camp museum. Coaches deliver white-haired grandparents who drift quietly round the wooden huts in the belt of marsh and forest that separates Denmark's well-manicured fields and high-tech windmills from German Schleswig-Holstein to the south. Streaming north on the motorway near by come the younger German generation heading for Jutland's beaches.

Undercurrents of concern about the size and power of a unified Germany have been

Bitter memories of the war have stirred Danes' fears that their giant neighbour to the south will gain yet more power

the hidden theme of Denmark's year-long national argument over the Maastricht treaty. Politicians seldom refer directly to Germany — still less to any "threat" — but know that the issue stirs powerful emotions. Danes oscillate between faith that a stronger Community will insulate them against German domination and suspicion that European union shackles them too tightly to their neighbour.

The camp at Froeslev marks a Danish attempt to cope with German power which went dreadfully wrong. Germany did not need to occupy Denmark at the start of the second world war: the Copenhagen government was simply placed under Hitler's "protection". The camp at Froeslev began as the Danish government's attempt to stop pris-

ers being taken south to concentration camps in Germany. The Germans insisted on putting the camp as far south as possible, in territory that had been German for half a century after 1864.

While Froeslev was a haven of peace compared with German camps elsewhere, Danish hopes were betrayed. Within a month of opening in 1944, Danish prisoners were being shipped to Belsen and Dachau; many did not return. Froeslev was one of many humiliations for a wartime Danish political class which believed that they could do business with the conquerors. What one elderly visitor to the camp museum called a "very dark time" is a foreign country to younger Danes. The affluent consumers of the single market cross into Germany to



Lobbying hard: William Cash, the Conservative anti-Maastricht MP, who went to boost the campaign for a "nej" vote in Copenhagen

buy beer and refrigerators: their German counterparts come north for pornography and model windmills. I asked a young Danish woman with jeans and close-cropped hair if she feared that the Germans

would ever come north again. "No, absolutely not," she said fervently. The day before I had listened to a grey-haired grandmother berate Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Denmark's prime minister, as he

urged a large campaign meeting to vote "yes" to Maastricht. "You are betraying your country," she shouted, "you will turn us into a region of Germany." The government reassured voters that they were

not being bounced into a treaty which subordinated them to Germany. "Last year it was different," said a Copenhagen taxi driver, "people thought the Germans are coming! the Germans are

coming", but now they have calmed down a bit."

Night of decision, page 1
Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article, page 17
Graham Searjeant, page 23

Norway to resume killing whales in defiance of ban

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

NORWAY is to allow its fishermen to kill 296 minke whales in the northeast Atlantic over the next three months. The announcement in Oslo yesterday came less than a week after the International Whaling Commission (IWC), of which Norway is a member, renewed a six-year-old global ban on commercial hunting.

Oslo's decision also defies recent warnings by John Gummer, Britain's agriculture minister, and Yannis Psalidas, the European Community's environment commissioner, that Norway would hinder its application to join the EC by resuming whaling.

Norway's foreign minister, Johan Joergen Holst, told parliament that 160 of the 296 whales would be hunted

on Monday. Mr Gummer said he was "deeply saddened" by Norway's intention to resume whaling, which had been well signalled ahead of yesterday's announcement.

"Norway belongs to an international body that banned commercial whaling and they ought to meet their obligations," said Mr Gummer. "If it were to come into the EC, it would be necessary for Norway to accept the rules of the Community."

Norway began EC entry negotiations last month, with the aim of joining the Community in 1995 or 1996. All trade in whale products has been banned in the EC since 1981. From May, 1994, all EC member states will be required to comply with a directive on wildlife habitat conservation, listing minke whales among endangered animals that cannot be hunted.

Katya Noorgard, an official at the Norwegian embassy in London, said: "We do not see why the decision to resume whaling should hinder our entry application."

"The whaling issue can be dealt with during the negotiations," he said. "We hope to persuade the EC that minke whales are abundant and should be taken off the endangered list."

In Oslo, Mr Holst said that the planned catch of 296 minke whales was well within the number — 800 — that the IWC's own scientific committee had said could be caught without endangering the north-east Atlantic stock, which is put at 86,700. He said that any trade sanctions against Norway would violate the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The biggest threat of retaliation comes from the United States, which is empowered under domestic legislation to impose economic sanctions, including a ban on fish exports, against any state "whose activities diminish the effectiveness of the conservation measures of the IWC".



Gummer: saddened by Norway's decision

commercially and the remaining 136 would be taken for scientific research, including the study of the age and sex composition of whale stocks. Such scientific kills are permitted under the IWC ban.

Mr Holst said hunting would start as soon as some 40 vessels, operating out of the Lofoten islands in northwest Norway, had been allocated catch quotas. The Norwegian whaling season usually runs from June to early September. Last year Norway killed 95 minke whales for research but has not hunted any commercially since 1987.

Speaking in the Commons

British newsman held by Turks on border

BY ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Turkish authorities have committed for trial a British freelance journalist who they claim was a courier for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party. Andrew Penny was arrested on Monday while crossing into Turkey from northern Iraq.

Penny, a former BBC reporter in his 40s, was arrested on the Turkey-Iraq border with material on Iraqi Kurdistan and was brought before the court in the southeastern Turkish town of Silopi, sources said. The material was said to have included audio and video cassettes of interviews with Kurdish leaders in northern Iraq. Penny's file will be forwarded this week to a regional court in Diyarbakir, a source said.

A Turkish reporter for a radical pro-Kurdish newspaper was reported to be detained at the same time but released later. The incident

month by the State Security Court in Diyarbakir of Stefan Waldberg, a German journalist, for 45 months. Waldberg was accused of carrying documents from the Kurdish group's base in Zaleb, where it is kept under observation by Iraqi Kurds to prevent it launching military operations across the frontier.

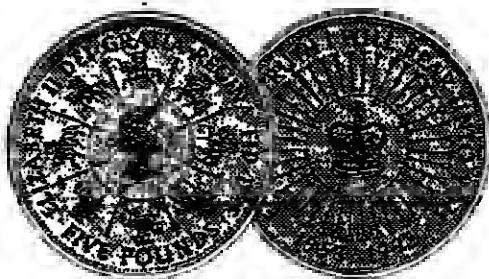
Another German television reporter was arrested in similar circumstances last November but released after a day. At the beginning of spring, the Kurdish group announced a unilateral ceasefire in the hopes of winning concessions from the Turkish government, from which it is seeking autonomy.

Last night no British official was available for comment although the embassy in Ankara was quoted by the Anatolian news agency as saying that the matter would have to be decided by the independent



1953 CORONATION PORTRAIT BY CECIL BEATON.

This picture captured the heart of a nation, and the imagination of the world. The year was 1953, and the newly crowned Queen was just 27 years old. Now after 40 eventful years, the Royal Mint has produced a £5 Coronation Crown depicting all the regal splendour of this



historic event. It's the first to be minted since 1953, and has been authorised by the Queen herself. You can collect your own piece of history now from most banks or post offices. Limited edition gold and silver crowns are available directly from the Royal Mint.

1993 CORONATION CROWN BY THE ROYAL MINT.

Serb vote proves Vance-Owen plan can only prolong conflict



Christopher: US "will not act alone"

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE outside world is doing its best to ignore the Bosnian Serb referendum. British, American and Russian diplomats say it is "irrelevant", a "sham" and "unrepresentative". Lord Owen called it a challenge to the world community and said the world must decide what further pressure to apply.

The referendum was held in conditions of war, virtually none of the original non-Serb inhabitants were left to vote; and the poll has neither international legitimacy nor voting secrecy. Yet the results, officially known today, will show that at least 95 per cent of the Bosnian Serbs vehemently reject the Vance-Owen peace plan. The poll has made clear that there is now no hope that the plan can be implemented with the grudging co-operation of the Bosnian Serbs — it would have to be enforced in the teeth of armed opposition. Even Lord Owen seemed pessimistic yesterday about the chances of his plan's success. He said that Bosnia-Herzegovina would not survive as a single state if Muslims and Croats continued fighting.

The realisation that the original Vance-Owen plan would have to be enforced in the face of armed opposition comes as the plan itself has run into serious difficulty. The original timetable for implementation, laid out at the time of the Athens agreement, now looks increasingly unlikely. The United Nations Security Council has still not met to pass the resolution that was to trigger the deployment of up to 70,000 ground troops who would oversee the necessary withdrawal of Serbian forces — mainly because the United States has not yet committed itself to providing any troops for Bosnia. Nato, which was to co-ordinate the military deployment, has not yet received firm troop offers to deploy anything like the numbers required.

Officially, the Vance-Owen plan is still alive. British officials say that is still the basis of all international effort. Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, said in Belgrade yesterday: "What is important is to consolidate our joint support for the Vance-Owen plan and find ways of building on that." The rumbling disagreement between America and the European allies has forced considerable modification, however. The Americans have still not dropped the option of air strikes while arming the Bosnian Muslims, despite continuing strong opposition from Britain and other European allies.

Nevertheless, Washington has retreated from its hardline position. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said on Monday that air strikes could jeopardise the lives of UN forces and those of hundreds of thousands of civilians.

The well-publicised danger of an open quarrel last week has forced the Americans and the Europeans to speak with great caution about their disagreement. There is a detectable exasperation in allied foreign ministries, however, at the vacillation in America and the failure of the Clinton administration to announce its policy.

It is clear that the Americans, rebuffed by their allies and vexed at their failure to find acceptance for their preferred options, may want to wash their hands of the issue. "At heart, this is a European

problem," Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, said in congressional evidence yesterday. "We will not act alone in taking actions in the former Yugoslavia."

President Clinton is under strong pressure to spend more time on domestic policy. Last week Washington said he would not announce his policy until after the Bosnian Serb referendum, maintaining that was what the Europeans

wanted. British officials do not expect any imminent announcement now the referendum is over, however. Meanwhile, both sides have concentrated on areas of common agreement, principally the ad hoc extension of the UN-designated "safe areas" in several Muslim-populated towns in eastern Bosnia. Under the UN resolution 824, these could be protected by air strikes, thus giving Washington and the allies a common target should the Americans insist on a symbolic use of air power.

British officials say these safe areas — less formal than safe havens — have proved successful, have stopped attacks on the Muslim populations and could be expanded geographically until they cover most of eastern Bosnia.

No Western power is ready to fight its way into city centres through Bosnian Serb

lines; but once allowed in, the troops would patrol the areas. However the Americans have still not committed forces: the most they have promised is a vague offer of sending forces to Macedonia to prevent the conflict spilling over. There is also concern that the Serbs may agree to this as a substitute for Vance-Owen, simply hardening and enforcing the present ceasefire lines.

The new focus is on sealing the border between Serbia and Bosnia. The offer of Russian troops has made that more likely. However, that step was intended only as a way of putting pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to abandon their opposition to the Vance-Owen plan while testing the sincerity of President Milosevic in insisting on the Athens agreement. The referendum has shown that the Bosnian Serbs are largely impervious to such pressure.

Bosnia left on sidelines as Washington snubs Russia

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK
AND MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

Warren Christopher, stung by rejection of air strikes and arms for Muslims, says Bosnia is Europe's problem. He is not impressed with Moscow's initiative, either

THE American decision yesterday to boycott Friday's planned summit of United Nations Security Council foreign ministers killed off the meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina and threw international peace efforts in the Balkans into even greater disarray.

Although Britain and other European nations supported the Russian call for the session, they refused to upstage the Americans by attending once it became clear that Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, would stay away.

The Clinton administration, three months after effectively taking over responsibility for resolving the Bosnian conflict from the Europeans, appeared last night to be handing the "problem from hell" back again. Mr Christopher acknowledged for the first time in public that the Europeans had rejected the American plan to arm Bosnia's Muslims. He declared that "at heart this is a Euro-

pean problem". The allies wanted to pursue particular ideas of their own, he said.

At the UN, European diplomats were unhappy that Washington had thrown a monkey wrench in the diplomatic works, and described it as a sign that the Clinton administration had no viable policy to end the war in the former Yugoslavia. "The Americans didn't want to be the only one to have to explain to the council that their foreign policy was awaiting resolution of their domestic difficulties," one European diplomat said. "Even the Russians seem to have solved theirs."

Mr Christopher would almost certainly have been asked to vote on a package of measures prepared by Russia and supported by the European nations about which he still has serious reservations. The Russian package called for security council members

to endorse the international peace plan for Bosnia, establish a war crimes tribunal, station monitors on Bosnia's border with Serbia and Montenegro and beef up the UN presence in "safe areas" around besieged Muslim enclaves.

Washington is still reluctant to endorse the peace plan, and cautious about strengthening the UN peacekeeping presence in the remaining Muslim enclaves because it fears it will be embarrassed when it refuses to send troops, as the Russians are now willing to do. The Americans are ready, however, to support the sending of observers to Bosnia's border with the Serb-led rump of Yugoslavia to oversee the embargo declared by Belgrade on the Bosnian Serbs. They also unequivocally support the creation of a war crimes tribunal. Even without the ministerial meeting, the

security council is expected to vote in the coming days to set up the war crimes tribunal and to send monitors to the Bosnia-Yugoslavia border.

After failing to win European support for a policy of air strikes on the Bosnian Serbs and lifting the UN arms embargo on the Muslims, and still unwilling to commit ground troops to Bosnia, the Clinton administration, which is bogged down in domestic difficulties, has apparently concluded that the Bosnian issue should take a back seat.

European officials complained that the administration's attention was straying from an issue that has caused it nothing but headaches. President Clinton has been on the road selling his economic plan and refusing to answer reporters' questions about Bosnia. A meeting of the president's top advisers on Monday again failed to reach any decisions. One American official said preserving the Atlantic alliance had taken precedence over resolving disagreements over Bosnia.

Russian push, page 1
On this day, page 19

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Frugal food: a man picking dandelions to eat yesterday in front of a house scarred by mortar trace in Hrasno, near a Serb-held suburb of Sarajevo

Warring factions refuse to live with peace settlement

FROM MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN BUSOVACA, CENTRAL BOSNIA

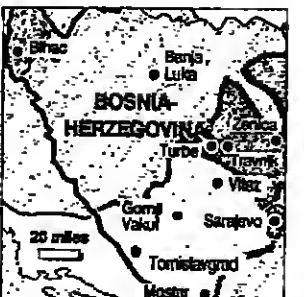
MEN with Kalashnikovs and mortars guarding their homes or trying to seize territory in central Bosnia — in Mostar to the south and at Breko in the north — provide the clearest evidence that they are in no mood to accept the Vance-Owen plan, whatever their political masters may sign.

One-third of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina would have to be partitioned and guarded by United Nations troops if the Vance-Owen peace plan were to be implemented. The number of UN soldiers needed for the task rises each day.

The reason for what was described as a "conservative" estimate for a future peace-keeping mission is that in all ten of the proposed semi-autonomous provinces there are such serious potential conflict areas that none of the three warring factions would be ready to co-operate or compromise.

Only in Croat strongholds,

such as Busovaca, a tense town between Vitez and Kiseljak, surrounded by Muslim forces, do you find supporters of the Vance-Owen package. But a glance at the proposed territorial control reveals why the Croats are "chuckling" at the



thought of UN troops enforcing the Vance-Owen map. Busovaca, a town of 5,000 Croats and 1,000 Muslims, would be in province 10, which also includes Vitez, growing more tense every day, Travnik, where the Muslims

are in the majority, and Gorzki Vakuf, a potboiler of hatred.

Under Vance-Owen, the Muslim areas remaining in province 10 would be demilitarised. But the memory of Ahmici, where 96 charred and butchered Muslim bodies were discovered earlier this month, has made every Muslim family tremble at the thought of living in a Croat-controlled province.

The Croats, too, can cite atrocities they have suffered at the hands of the Muslims. At Miletić, northwest of Vitez, on April 25 five Croat male bodies were found, two of them in a sitting position, indicating they had been killed by a grenade.

Colonel Dario Kordic, vice-president of the Croat HVO government of Herzegovina and a leading Croat figure in central Bosnia, said: "Vance-Owen is still alive. From the first day, we saw it as a rational plan for living together in Herzegovina."

Truce negotiations helped by lull in fighting

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

FIGHTING across Bosnia-Herzegovina largely subsided yesterday as political leaders met in the southwest of the republic to try to work out a lasting truce between nominally allied rebel Croat forces and the Bosnian army.

Most of Bosnia was quiet, including the capital, Sarajevo, which has been unusually calm for two weeks. Western military analysts said that rebel Serbs had moved some of their artillery and tanks from round the city several weeks ago to assist in their

assaults on the east Bosnian towns of Srebrenica and Zepa.

While reports from Mostar suggested that fighting had waned since yesterday with only small-scale firing reported, Croat-Muslim tensions continued to simmer in central Bosnia in what may become a new outbreak of fighting.

Bosnian radio reported that the town of Konjic was coming under intermittent shell and sniper fire from both Serb and Croat positions.

Around Travnik and Vitez, Western military analysts say rebel Croat and Bosnian army forces appear to be preparing for another battle.

Last month there was heavy fighting in the area and thousands of Muslims were expelled from their homes by rebel Croat troops. A battalion of British UN troops headquartered in the area could again be caught in the crossfire if clashes start.

In eastern Bosnia, rebel Serbs began allowing aid convoys to reach the UN-

Guerrillas battle for Kabul

Kabul: Dozens of casualties swamped Kabul's already crowded hospitals as government troops and their guerrilla foes fought to break a stalemate in the Afghan capital. Government jets made at least eight bombing runs on positions of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the hardline rebel leader in southern Kabul, as his rockets pounded the city.

Fierce rocket and artillery fire was concentrated around a strategic road junction near the centre of the battered capital where troops loyal to the Islamic coalition government were fighting off a new offensive. (Reuters)

Poll victory

Colombo: Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party claimed victory in regional elections. The poll was peaceful despite campaign violence and the assassination of President Premadasa. (Reuters)

Siege honour

Paris: Laurence Dreyfus, the teacher who amused and comforted her pupils during the weekend hostage drama at Neuilly-sur-Seine, near Paris, has been awarded the Unesco human rights medal.

Aids silence

Bangkok: Doctors in northern Thailand are refusing to tell mothers with the HIV virus about their condition to try to stem an epidemic of baby abandonment. The Nation reported. (Reuters)

Closer ties

Delhi: India and Israel have cemented ties during a two-day official visit to Delhi by Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister. The two countries established diplomatic relations last year. (AP)

Ports hit

Madrid: Most of Spain's ports were hit by a 24-hour strike as about 14,500 workers walked out to protest against government attempts to privatise ports. (Reuters)

Refugees die

Nairobi: Seven bodies have been recovered and 47 people were missing and feared drowned after a dhow taking Somali refugees home capsized off Mombasa. (Reuters)

Strike wanes

Berlin: The engineering strike in eastern Germany neared its end as workers in four states agreed to settle their wage dispute. Metalworkers elsewhere will fight on. (Reuters)

Home alone

Tokyo: Emperor Akihito failed to attend a traditional Shinto ceremony to mark the formal opening of his new £29-million home. (Reuters)

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Setback for Yeltsin as judges bring coup trial to a halt

FROM ANNE McELROY
IN MOSCOW

THE trial of 12 former Soviet officials accused of plotting the coup against President Gorbachev in August 1991 was suspended indefinitely yesterday after the judges ordered the dismissal of the prosecuting team because of "serious violations" of legal procedure by Valentin Stepankov, the prosecutor-general.

The move came only hours after the court had reconvened after a month's recess due to the illness of a minor defendant and this second unsuccessful attempt to start the trial throws into doubt whether it will be continued at all. The hearing has lasted less than four full days in total since it began last month and it was adjourned yesterday before any evidence could be heard.

The judges ruled that the publication by Mr Stepankov of a book, *Kremlin Plot*, portrayed the defendants as criminals before the illegality of their actions had been established by a court and had biased public opinion.

They said that they would ask the Russian parliament to debate the violations of procedure and consider whether the impartiality of the prosecuting team could be assured in any further hearing. Surrounded by supporters outside the court, the defendants welcomed the adjournment but said that they would seek a full and final suspension of the trial to clear their names. Anatoli Lukyanov, former chairman of the Supreme Soviet and once a close associate of Mr Gorbachev, described the decision as "a first small victory for justice".

The seizure of power from Mr Gorbachev devised by Vladimir Kryuchkov, then KGB chief, and led as figure-

The Soviet coup plotters have been gladdened by the latest trial adjournment. The Russian president may see little point in pushing on with a judicial fiasco

head by Vice-President Genadi Yanayev, helped by Valentin Pavlov, who was then prime minister, Mr Lukyanov and other leading figures from the Communist party apparatus was defeated, but it led to the fall first of Mr Gorbachev and then of the Soviet Union. The long delay in bringing the coup's initiators to trial has

The pre-trial publication of information about the background of the alleged crime was a legal mistake unthinkable in the West and it may have heralded the end of any serious attempt to secure convictions.

The Russian parliament into whose hands the fate of any future trial has been delivered is dominated by conservatives who perceive the attempts to prosecute the plotters as the pet cause of Mr Yeltsin, their sworn enemy. They are unlikely to seize the challenge of relaunching the case with much vigour. Ties between unrepentant communists and the parliamentary opposition have become closer as the legislature's conflict with the presidency has sharpened. After two false starts and a legal fiasco that has done nothing to improve the international reputation of Russian justice, Mr Yeltsin may also feel that there is little point in continuing to support a trial, especially as the

Tajik disaster

Geneva: Heavy rains in Tajikistan have caused severe economic and agricultural damage and made about 35,000 people homeless, the United Nations said yesterday. A fifth of the former Soviet republic's 19 districts were declared disaster zones after heavy rains and gales caused flooding and mudslides, the UN Department for Humanitarian Affairs said. (Reuters)

sapped public interest in their fate. The men were being tried by a military bench of the supreme court and charged according to the old Soviet code with "betraying the motherland", an offence that is still punishable by death.

Their lawyers made a concerted effort from the beginning of yesterday's hearing to press home objections to the prosecution team and its methods. Mr Pavlov's lawyer told the court that the very title of Mr Stepankov's book was proof that he had not been objective in preparing the trial.

Arrest of fugitive heartens Rome in its war on Mafia

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AFTER the arrest yesterday of Benedetto "Nino" Santapaola, the most wanted mafioso in Italy, the authorities have suggested for the first time in years that they might be gaining the upper hand in the long war against Cosa Nostra.

"Mafiosi can no longer sleep in peace in their own homes, in their own territory," said Gianni De Gennaro, the head of the Direzione Investigativa Anti-Mafia, a new unit formed to combat organised crime.

Special police flown in from the mainland dropped from helicopters and stormed a farmhouse 50 miles from Catania where Signor Santapaola, 54, was sleeping with his wife, Grazia. He had a pistol on his bedside table but he was given no time to use it. Signor Santapaola had been on the run since 1982 from charges on a series of crimes including the murder in 1982 in Palermo of General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, the carabinieri commander sent to Sicily to eradicate the mob. Signor Santapaola was the reputed right-hand man of Salvatore "Totò" Riina, Cosa Nostra's "boss of bosses", who was captured in January.

Nicola Mancino, the interior minister, said that investigators "must not rest on their laurels". There was satisfaction at the breakthrough, however, as Italy began paying tribute to the memory of Gio-



Santapaola: arrested with comparative ease

vanni Falcone, the magistrate killed by the Mafia on May 23 last year with his wife, Francesca, and three police bodyguards. "This is an event of extraordinary importance that confirms the determination and dedication with which we are fighting organised crime," Vincenzo Parisi, the national police commander, said.

A series of defections for Cosa Nostra in recent months may be linked to the mob losing political protection, criminologists say. Last week the senate decided to lift the parliamentary immunity from prosecution of Giulio Andreotti, the Christian Democrat elder statesman, so that he can be investigated and eventually face trial on charges of protecting the Mafia.

The ease with which Signor Santapaola was captured

raises suspicions that he had enjoyed high-level protection. Nevertheless, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the prime minister, hailed the arrest as a brilliant operation.

According to evidence from two supergrasses, Signor Santapaola is a member of the *cupola*, or ruling commission, of Cosa Nostra in Sicily. He repeatedly escaped other police hunts for him, including one raid in 1989 when his brother-in-law, Giuseppe Ercolano, also on the run at the time, gave himself up so that Signor Santapaola could make a getaway by crawling through an irrigation pipe.

Until he was 35, Signor Santapaola was unknown nationally, working as a travelling shoe salesman while running an extortion gang in Catania. He invested protection money in legitimate businesses, eliminated his rivals and became the main link between the old-style Mafia in Palermo and the violent Catania underworld.

Signor Parisi, who last weekend described the Mafia as a "hunted animal", said that a car bomb attack in Rome on Friday night apparently designed to kill Maurizio Costanzo, a popular television presenter who has campaigned against the Mafia, was a sign that Cosa Nostra might try to operate outside its traditional Sicilian territory to fight back against the state.



Popular appeal: Cambodian women showing their support for candidates campaigning for the Liberal Democratic Party yesterday during a rally in Phnom Penh. The first democratic elections for two decades are due to be held in Cambodia from Sunday until the following Friday

Foreign Office adviser's visit comes at delicate time

Cradock's Peking trip riles Patten

Jonathan Mirsky, East Asia editor, explains why a Peking visit by Sir Percy Cradock, former British ambassador, has upset the apple cart in Hong Kong

SIR Percy Cradock, one of the Foreign Office's most celebrated sinologists and an outspoken critic of Hong Kong's governor, Chris Patten, has been sent to Hong Kong by the Foreign Office to visit Peking during a sensitive moment in Anglo-Chinese relations.

Until his recent retirement Sir Percy was intelligence co-ordinator for both Margaret Thatcher and John Major, and before that served as ambassador in Peking. He is passing through Hong Kong on Sunday on his way to Shanghai and Peking, where he is due on May 27, shortly after the critical third round of Anglo-Chinese negotiations on Mr Patten's proposals for constitutional change, which begin on Friday.

Sir Percy has described the Patten plan for moderate democracy in Hong Kong as "fatal" and warned that China will react harshly against what it — and Sir Percy — regard as

a betrayal of past agreements, in which Sir Percy played a central role. "We aren't in a chancery court now," Sir Percy said recently. "The Chinese will do what they want."

While in Peking he will be entertained by the British ambassador, Sir Robin McLaren, who arrives in Hong Kong today to consult Mr Patten and Sir John Coles, the senior Foreign Office official with direct responsibility for Hong Kong-China relations.

More infuriating to the Foreign Office and to Government House here is Sir Percy's invitation to lunch with Jiang Enzhu, deputy prime minister and Sir Robin's opposite number in the negotiations. Peking has spoken approvingly of Sir

advice and support the governor.

Sir Percy insists he is on a business trip and bears no messages from London. He is on the board of Kleinwort Benson, for whom he will be acting in Shanghai, and it is not strange that he will be seeing Sir Robin McLaren, "an old friend of long standing".

Sir Percy has been quoted in the *South China Morning Post* as insisting: "There is no secret agenda and I am going in an entirely private capacity... this is not another one of those secret visits."

It is suspected in Hong Kong that the governor, who is remaining silent on the Cradock trip and will not receive him during his stopover, is unhappy about the journey. Is not pleased about Sir Percy's reception in the Peking embassy during the period, and is probably irritated that Sir Percy will be entertained by old Foreign Office colleagues serving in Hong Kong, whose job is to

UN issues Cambodia poll threat

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN PHNOM PENH

THE United Nations threatened yesterday to disqualify any candidates who disrupted Cambodia's elections and ordered its peacekeepers off the streets at night as a security precaution.

Yasushi Akashi, the UN mission chief, issued "a solemn warning to all Cambodians who oppose the holding of free and fair elections through violence, intimidation, harassment and manipulation". There are widespread fears that the polls, Cambodia's first multiparty elections in two decades, could be sabotaged by Khmer Rouge attacks and violence by the Phnom Penh government. The elections, due to start on Sunday, have been organised by the UN.

Winston Lord, the State Department official who arrived yesterday, said America would do what it could to achieve free and fair elections.

Thyssen art treasures 'to stay in Spain'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MADRID

BARON Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza and Spanish authorities have reached an agreement that will keep the Swiss magnate's prized art collection in Spain permanently.

Spain will pay a token price of about £195 million for the baron's 788-piece collection, which has been valued at £1.2 billion, the daily *El País* reported yesterday. Ruth Zauner, a spokeswoman for the Thyssen Foundation in Madrid, refused to comment on the report.

The collection, considered the world's second-largest private collection of paintings after that of the Queen, was moved into the refurbished Villahermosa Palace in Madrid in October under a nine-

year loan agreement. Since then, the German-born baron has lent the Thyssen Museum another 150 works that are not part of the present negotiations, Ms Zauner said. The collection, which together with the Prado and the Reina Sofia Modern Art Centre make up Madrid's "Golden Triangle" of art, came to Spain largely as a result of the efforts of Baron Thyssen's wife, Carmen Cervera, a former Miss Spain, and his late friend, Luis Gomez, duke of Badajoz and brother-in-law of Spain's King Juan Carlos.

Spain has so far paid about £58 million to care for the collection, with about half that sum being spent on remodeling the Villahermosa Palace.

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Shadow of Carter-style revolt hangs over Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

IN ONE of the most disturbing developments of Bill Clinton's young presidency, the moderate Democrats who were his earliest supporters are threatening to turn against him just as they rounded on Jimmy Carter in 1977.

Those who were considered the president's congressional base are now accusing him of abandoning the centrist "New Democrat" platform that wooed millions of swing voters last year and are veering leftwards. In particular, they are threatening to derail the president's deficit-reduction bill in the House next week because it contains record tax increases and few spending cuts.

The rebels fear sweeping Republican gains in next year's congressional elections, even capture of the

Senate, if the Democrats are again seen as old-style tax-and-spenders. Further big new taxes to finance health care will be announced next month. "Our serious concern is that if taxes go up and the deficit doesn't go down we are all dead meat," Timothy Wirth, a leading conservative Congressman from Minnesota, said.

Up to 50 House Democrats are pressing for another \$60 billion (£40 billion) in cuts and legally binding caps on huge social security "entitlement" programmes. They are infuriated by a leadership plan to ram the legislation through by barring amendments. The White House predicament is that capping entitlements would alienate powerful liberals.

Mr Clinton's legislation also faces a Senate challenge. Democrats have a majority of two on the key finance

committee but at least three oppose the proposed new \$72 billion energy tax.

The public's changing perception of Mr Clinton was obvious during a public meeting in San Diego on Monday. A questioner accused him of abandoning his promised middle-class tax cut for "an unprecedented round of more taxes and new spending" that was rekindling the "malaise" of the Carter years. Mr Clinton said it was a "big myth" that his plan did not contain spending cuts and argued that the national debt, if not tackled, would "kill us".

Broader criticism of the Clinton presidency is coming from members of the Democratic Leadership Council, the group Mr Clinton founded to move the party to the vote-rich centre after Walter Mondale's 1984 presidential defeat. The soulmates are feeling left



Clinton: expressed fear over national debt

out", Dave McCurdy, the Congressman who seconded Mr Clinton's nomination at last July's Democratic convention, protested. He accused Mr Clinton of governing like a traditional liberal. The president was "listening to a small group of people who don't support the New Democrat agenda and

weren't with Bill Clinton in the beginning".

An article by Al From, the council president, and Will Marshall, president of the council-affiliated Progressive Policy Institute, suggested that Mr Clinton was placing more emphasis on big government than personal responsibility, work and family, which he had emphasised last year.

Mr Clinton is expected to upset the left by ordering a resumption of nuclear testing in America when a nine-month moratorium ends next month, although he will simultaneously endorse congressional legislation banning all such tests after 1996 unless other countries are still testing. Britain, which tests in Nevada, and the Pentagon had pushed hard for a resumption of testing to ensure the safety and reliability of their nuclear weapons.

A bunch of kids are putting on a show about Hollywood's child stars. Libby Purves smells the greasepaint

They're babes with charms

'C'mon, kids! We're gonna put on a show, right here in this barn, they think we're just kids but we're gonna make it to Broadway!' cries Mickey Rooney, circa 1939. And Mickey and Judy Garland, and the kids, always do make it, with not a dry eye in the house as the "Babes" hit Broadway. "It's a wonderful street for babes like us to be on — we're here because we want our names in neon!" Despite the corn and the camp, and the glitzy veiled vicious exploitation of the lives the child stars led, it remains an irresistible world.

People who fall in love with old Hollywood musicals never get tired: to the end of their lives they are prone to break into "Hallelujah, c'mon, get happy!" and a quick buck-and-wing step at the lightest provocation. As for Judy Garland herself, the pills and the booze and the ultimate despair of her life only add fascination to the legend, causing addicts to quaver "Over the rainbow" after a couple of drinks and opine that they don't write 'em like that any more.

They do, however, recreate them. I have proof. Here they all are again, two generations on: 65 children and teenagers in scruffy trainers knocking hell out of a hot dance routine in the modern-day equivalent of a barn, a church hall in north Oxford. Here is Judy Garland singing scat, and little Jackie "The Kid" Coogan, and Lana Turner, and Freddie Bartholomew. And if you think you hear the dread opening bars of "On the good ship Lollipop" you are quite correct, because that is indeed Shirley Temple pouting her way downstage, albeit that five decades have passed and the real Ms Temple Black has since had a successful career as a diplomat. It is eerie. It is *Babes*, a musical developed by Humphrey Carpenter and his amateur Mushy Pea children's theatre group in celebration — some of it appropriately ironic and realistic — of the earliest Hollywood child stars. The cast range widely in age, from a five-year-old Sam Wylie as Jackie Coogan, to the 18-year-old gravitas of An-

drew Purcell as Mel Tormé, who sets off the action flashbacks as he tries vainly to produce a television special with the worn-out, pill-popping Garland of 1963. The real Mr Tormé wrote a book, *The Other Side Of The Rainbow*, about the experience.

They have played an Oxford school hall and Chipping Norton, and now their Broadway is the 500-seat Shaw Theatre in London. Mr Carpenter, sole angel of the production, has personally hired and staffed it for "the money some people spend on changing the car and having holidays", a total risk of around £16,000.

The Shaw management "take us completely seriously", he says, "although I don't think they are really used to a cast of 65 doing four changes each". At the Shaw, Simon Thomsett describes the idea as "ambitious and slightly mad. Humphrey is very persuasive, isn't he?" As a backstop against utter economic ruin, the company is doing musical matinees of his already successful children's stories about Mr Majeka to pick up the half-term trade: but *Babes* is the real thing, a musical for adults, taking on the grown-up West End.

I found Mushy Pea working up to this rash enterprise in three separate rooms of their rehearsal hall, at once. Mr Carpenter, better known as the biographer of Benjamin Britten and W.H. Auden and son of Archbishop Robert Runcie, is a keen jazz musician (he keeps three double-basses in his sitting-room, which is not wholly convenient) and started the group eight years ago out of "sheer self-indulgence". It is not an altruistic way of looking after other people's children after school. It is a way of getting your own work performed by enormous casts. It is also hard work. In his section of the rehearsal, three things are happening: the choreographer and co-director, Luned Harries, is teaching a row of ten-year-olds precision shuffling; Mr Carpenter is trying to prise a piece of cheese out of the B-flat key of the electric piano, and his younger daughter Kate, aged 11, is belting out "S-M-I-L-E",



Somewhere over the moon: the cast of *Babes*, from the Mushy Pea children's group, join Humphrey Carpenter, the show's producer and only "angel", for rehearsal in Oxford

very loud in her role as Ma Meglin, the trainer of child stars, unhampered by the fact that she has one leg in a plaster cast. "A canal-boat accident," mutters her father, discarding the cheese and playing on. "It's all right. We've put in a line for her — 'That's the last time I teach King Kong to tap-dance'." Replacing Kate would have been a pity: for some reason the child delivers a startling volume, sounding uncannily like Ethel Merman and just as brassy. Imagine a diminutive, scruffy Merman in a rugby shirt and plaster, and you've got her.

In the next room, Jo Trowsdale, another qualified drama teacher in the group, works through an intense scene between Mel Tormé, the adult Judy Garland, and some

reporters. "Remember to put in the pauses as well as the words," she says. Sasha Pick, aged 15, is Judy Garland.

Humphrey Carpenter saw her in an amateur production of "Guys and Dolls" when she was 13, and seized on her for his long-cherished project. "It's that voice. She's extraordinary for her age. She's just got that Judy Garland mixture: all the vibrato, but somewhere in there a twelve-year-old girl."

She also has an equable temperament: a modest, quiet, rather shy child of stage ("Humphrey is great to work with: he never gets too worked up; he suddenly produces high-voltage intensity, putting songs across with gestures like those of a young Liza Minnelli. When she does "Born in a trunk", the hairs stand up on the back of your neck. Then

'Someone said I was exploiting them, but you couldn't exploit this lot; believe me.'

she shuffles apologetically aside in her old jeans. "Am I singing flat?" Children chat and shuffle, come and go. Clare Carpenter, the middle-sized one of the three Jodies, hums through her number in the corner. The tiny figure of Sam, as Jackie

Coogan, follows the teenage Charlie Chaplin around, frowning with concentration. "Just do the feet," says his mentor Adam Davy, kindly. "It's the feet people look at." He doubles as various characters, including Busby Berkeley, who is required to dangle over the stage from an overhead camera position. "One more time!" cries the author from the next room. "Right over the top!"

Mr Carpenter, Mari Pritchard (head of costumes and his wife) and I retire late, and exhausted, to eat. Some problems have been easier, perhaps, for them to solve than most. "This is after all, north Oxford. One of our parents happens to be on the committee of the Performing Rights Society. Permissions for film music went through like a dream. We are very lucky to

have Luned and Jo. And our coach driver is going to be flyman at all performances." But the idea of rehearsing this lot, plus a twenty-piece orchestra, and then taking 65 of them to a London YWCA for five days and risking all your spare money in the process would daunt most of us. "But you have to do these things," says Humphrey Carpenter helplessly. "Don't you? Once you've had the idea."

In the "highly unlikely, but well-deserved" event of the show making a profit, he promises not to do a Louis B. Mayer and pocket the money at the children's expense. "I will pay back the parents for their accommodation, have a huge party and put the rest into the next production. I did have a cross letter from someone, saying how dare I make a musical

about child stars being exploited when I was exploiting them myself. But you couldn't exploit this lot. Believe me."

Sasha Pick, who at 15 carries the heaviest burden of emotional solos, bitter laughs and draining Garlandesque scenes, is not quite sure how she will feel when the first curtain goes up and there she is in her fishnet tights and black hat. "I'll probably just think — this is London! Not just friends in the audience — London!" she says. Perhaps Mr Carpenter will remember to keep up the conventions of the genre, and his principals will all return to find that — gulp! — next day on their dressing room someone has hung a star.

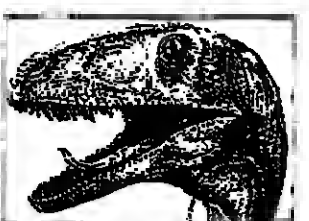
● *Babes* is at the Shaw Theatre, Euston Road, June 2-5 (071 388 1594).

Monster cynicism?

With the marketing of his latest film described as the hyperbole of hype, the knives are out for Steven Spielberg

It is now only a matter of weeks before *Jurassic Park*, Steven Spielberg's £40 million dinosaur movie and the most ambitious Mesozoic-monster film ever made, goes on general release in America. Never before has Hollywood witnessed such a co-ordinated onslaught on the consumer and never before, one suspects, has the director been so set on success.

The pre-release advertising budget alone has exceeded £14 million while a further £30 million has been allocated for spin-off projects such as cartoon shows, marketing abroad



and a possible theme-park. Even during the filming in Hawaii Spielberg apparently hired an army of security men to ensure that no journalists could witness any of the sequences. It is, as one film maker remarked, the hyperbole of hype.

Behind the hype, however, is the sense that this time Spielberg has overdone the cynicism. As Hollywood's golden boy of the seventies and eighties he either directed or produced five of the top ten box-office hits, including *ET*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Jaws*.

The nineties have not seen such a captivated public. His last film, *Hook*, loosely based on Peter Pan, was a dismal failure. If *Jurassic Park* were to flop — which, in view of every child's obsession for dinosaurs, is unlikely — then even Spielberg could face a period in the semi-wilderness.

But so revered has he become, in commercial terms, that none of the studio moguls has ever dared suggest during the leaner years that Spielberg would not be back. They could not afford to take such a gamble. And this is part of the self-perpetuating myth of the man.

Larry Engel, vice-chair of the film institute at Columbia University, says Spielberg simply does not need to spend so many millions on making one movie. "It is blatantly obscene that a film should cost this much," he says.

More than once Spielberg has been snubbed by the Hollywood establishment. "I like dinosaurs because kids like dinosaurs," he said. "After mommy, daddy, yes and no, often a child's fifth word is stegosaurus. Kids are completely dino-savvy at a very early age." At 45, however, Steven Spielberg is the savviest of them all.

Political diaries may be entertaining but they aren't history, warns Robert Rhodes James

The eternal appeal of insider gossip

When Rab Butler was bombed out of two London houses in 1941 he took luxurious refuge in the palatial Belgrave Square house of his friend, colleague and former parliamentary private secretary, Henry "Chips" Channon. It was then that he discovered, to his alarm, that Chips kept a diary.

"The diary was normally written each night after dinner," Rab later related, "and this I thought to be a great mistake, for it was often 2am by then and I told Chips that Winston Churchill had always advised against such a habit... He felt that it was not a good thing to be too personal in a record late at night, and that in a diary you could not achieve that perspective about yourself and your actions which time would give. You could not sit in fact you said too much; it gave no chance to assess the events a week or so before. However, Chips did not agree with this dictum."

Many historians, politicians, and lovers of diaries are thankful that he did not, because Chips' diaries (which I edited for publication in 1967) are now considered a classic.

At the time, however, the apprehensions of his friends and family about the publication of his diaries less than ten years after his death seemed to have been fully justified. They caused a sensation, but it was not an agreeable one for me or his son, Paul. Chips had had many friends, but also a multitude of political and other enemies, who reviewed his diaries with a remarkable venom. Few at that time were prepared to accept their quality, historical value, and sheer entertainment. But several years later A.P. Taylor

somewhat reluctantly, read them and was transfixed. The combination of high politics and high society, a rare self-deprecating wit, and a marvellous literary style, proved irresistible, and has continued to be for later generations of fascinated readers. I know few modern publications that have had a more remarkable change of fortune.

But Churchill, the historian, had a point. Historians have good reason to approach diaries with caution. They give a totally one-sided account of events, and may be deliberately, or unintentionally, self-serving: they are not necessarily even accurate. Richard Crossman's diaries were often dictated days after the events he described, and sometimes weeks. General Sir Ian Hamilton, the failed Gallipoli commander, wrote his so long after his retirement that they can hardly be described as diaries at all.

There is a close analogy between military and political diaries. In both, the diarist sees only a fraction of the events of the day. Politicians tend to move in limited



Indiscreet: Clark can't always be trusted

off day. Thus, with Peter Morrison:

"Peter, I am sorry to butt in, but I'm really getting a bit worried about the way things are going."

"Quite all right, old boy, relax. Look, do you think I'd be like this if I wasn't entirely confident?"

"What's the arithmetic look like?"

"Tightish, but OK. I've got Michael (Heseltine) on 115. It could be 124 at the most."

"Look, Peter, I don't think we are being straight with you."

"I have my means of checking."

I have a strong suspicion that Peter Morrison's version will be different. Also, it is certainly not the case that I voted for Heseltine in response to assurances about my future political preference. No such hint was dropped. I had, after all, announced my retirement from the Commons eight months before, and I did not make my voting decision until the day before the first ballot. When I did so I made it rubber and when I told

Heseltine he merely murmured his thanks.

I very much doubt whether the robustly independent Paul Channon and Nicholas Soames also, as Clark alleges, rallied to the Heseltine cause as a result of promise of future favours.

Nor is it the case that Elspeth Howe wrote "every word" of her husband's devastating resignation speech. When I remarked to his PPS, David Harris, about the wholly unexpected controlled passion of a speech that, like Leo Amery's on May 7, 1940, brought down a prime minister, he said: "You should have seen the first draft!" According to my notes I was told that Elspeth's only contribution had been to tone it down, but this was hearsay, and emphasises the point that diaries written in a tearing crisis should be handled with much caution.

My notes of a conversation with a leading member of the Heseltine campaign (in which I was not a participant) state that if he became prime minister he intended to make Tom King chairman of the party and Alan Clark secretary of state for defence. If this was true, then Clark was on the wrong side, from the point of view of his own interests, which clearly loomed large in his calculations. But it really does not matter very much.

Oddly enough, I remain very fond of Alan Clark, and so I lament his decision to publish diaries that will cost him many friendships and could do him much personal damage. And, on this first evidence, he is no Chips Channon.

● Sir Robert Rhodes James's new edition of the diaries of Chips Channon will be published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson in paperback on August 26.

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How to grow old gloriously

Forget blue rinse perms and pensions — Joan Collins is still sporting a mini at 60. How does she do it? Peter Millar reports on the business of staying young

In the winding backstreets around Madrid's Puerta del Sol, any afternoon or early evening, stocky Spanish *matronas* in sensible skirts and cardigans pace the streets smiling a touch too sweetly at passers-by. All have long since celebrated their fortieth birthdays; most have also said farewell to 50; all are prostitutes, but none of them looks like Joan Collins.

The question is why not? I mean no disrespect to Ms Collins, nor slight on her morals. She has, after all, made a fortune playing wanton women on screen and is currently soaking up the limelight in best superstar style in Cannes to publicise her latest film, *Decadence*, in which she plays both an upper-class whore and a vulgar nouvelle riche. One can only assume she chooses these parts. But the critical factor is that Ms Collins, although she declines tactfully to talk about it, turns 60 next week. In tabloid terminology, she is about to collect her bus pass, though heaven alone knows when Ms Collins last queued in the rain for a number 21.

If only one of her own three children would oblige, Joanne would be the ultimate glamorous granny. Yet here she is, again, on screen in micro-mini skirt and red wig, and off-stage talking about "jumping all over" men, such as the 35-year-old Estonian art dealer, Robin Hurdstone, with whom she now lives after the disaster of her fourth marriage to Peter Holm.

It is a can-of-worms question whether women, particularly as they grow older, dress and make themselves up to please men or please themselves (or even each other). But there is little doubt that an assumption of at least residual sex appeal is central to the "feel good factor" involved in looking younger longer. And these days that possibility is engagingly open to more and more women.

Until relatively recently, the bloom of beauty was short-lived. True, handsome looks in man or woman lived on in an aging body, but they were considered only in comparison with one's contemporaries, not as an absolute. Particularly since the 1950s, the baby boom and rock 'n' roll all consolidated the cult of youth at the pinnacle of Western culture: women are now led to believe that youth can be eternal. Soap commercials on television show us mums with complexions that match those of their teenage daughters —

without the acne — while for many of the middle classes there is no longer a problem of hands that load the dishwasher feeling soft as your face.

Labour-saving in the kitchen, reduced risks in childbirth and the benefits of birth control — never mind the twin totems of the modern beauty-ician's art: diet and dentistry — have reduced many of the worst ravages of the aging process. And then there is the knife. Ms Collins herself insists she has never had a facelift. But many of her contemporaries, and younger starlets, have lifted more parts of their anatomy than would have been considered wise or even humanly possible a decade ago. Both Dolly Parton, 47, with her prodigious cleavage, and Cher, who turns 47 tomorrow — virtually a complete remake-remodel — are testimonies to the cosmetic surgeon's skill.

I do not know what proportion of Ms Collins's even, gleaming, ivory smile is plastic, but I am willing to bet that far from all of her perfectly matched teeth are the ones God gave her. But cosmetic dentistry, while still expensive, is no longer the exclusive preserve of Hollywood stars and television newscasters. The average high street dentist is more than happy to bridge any gap in gleaming enamel, albeit not on the National Health Service.

The arts of skin care and facial make-up have also improved, although less dramatically, over the years. Ms Collins, according to close-up observers, still manages not to exhibit a wrinkle. But it is a moot matter how much this is due to vitamin creams, toning exercises and lotions and how much to what the movie make-up people still refer to — out of hearing of their charges — as "a good trowelling". Ms Collins affects her facial make-up in classic traditional style, with Cupid's bow lips in glossy red, subtly delineated with the finest dark line, an ample dusting of powder and jet-black arched eyebrows that tone perfectly with raven hair that has outlived any hint of grey.

Is it natural? No, of course not. But does it matter? Most people have an age that suits them, though neither they nor others necessarily realise this until they grow into it, or worse, out of it. This applies to men too. Some outrageously loud or deeply dull young men mellow magnificently into, lit-



Her face is her fortune: Joan Collins, 60 going on 39, is an expert at keeping the ravages of age at bay

erally, well-rounded chubmen. Winston Churchill's finest hour was not as a dashing young war correspondent but when he was long past his physical best, yet grown into the shape that suited him.

It is easy to assume women are at their best in the first blossom of youth; but some gawky teenagers can develop into scintillating 35-year-olds,

while prim and dowdy 25-year-olds can end up rivetingly interesting old ladies.

By her own admission, Joan Collins still thinks of herself as 39, the age when she first broke into the superstar bracket through the film version of her sister Jackie's soft porn novel *The Stud*. And she may be right. In which case, for the past 20 years she has done a good job at hanging on to her

own optimum age. The evidence suggests that most of her life has been dedicated to concepts of conventional sexual attraction from 14-year-old Lolita to sexagenarian sex symbol. Yet, as the *matronas* of Madrid demonstrate, there is little conventional about sex.

Perhaps the most important human consideration is to feel, as the French say "*bien dans sa peau*", at ease in one's own

skin, however stretched or sagging it may seem. My fear about Ms Collins and her ilk is that one day they will face the fate of Rider Haggard's fictional enchantress Ayesha, and see all their glory in an instant turn to dust. Though in Ms Collins's case, I daresay however much a bath in the flame of eternal youth may cost, she will be able to afford it.

Swell time, and keen to show it



RACHEL KELLY

PARIS, as usual, is leading the trend. Last weekend, I was captivated by the sight of a Parisian mother-to-be sauntering down the Champs Elysees in black leggings topped with a T-shirt. Its slogan? *J'ai un bébé à bord*.

Of course, models like Yasmin le Bon and Demi Moore, the actress, have already flaunted their pregnant status, most famously when Ms Moore posed on the cover of *Vanity Fair* last year. But then they have the sort of figures that make flaunting anything easy, and anyway, it's their business to flaunt. Their actions tell us little about society's wider mores. But my Parisian was no model. Average looking, with an average

Tube, because everybody can be sure you're pregnant rather than just fat, and seats follow accordingly.

And if you've got good legs, it's nice to show them off. Some men find pregnant women sexy. (Funnily enough, it seems only women of a certain generation still feel that a fat tummy is not very pretty. Even the good bits are enveloped in a tent-like smock.)

Ironically, smocks actually make you look more pregnant — even bigger than you already are, as if you are victim who needs special treatment. Artful use of black can actually reduce the size of the bump, even if you do wear a T-shirt. And, finally, it's helpful for

Demi Moore has the sort of figure that makes flaunting anything easy



figure, she still had decided to look like Tweedledum.

Whatever happened to maternity clothes? Whether the billowing floral smock, the rosy-cheeked expectant mother, the Vermeer figure blushing at her bump? Andrew Marvell would have to rewrite his description of pregnant women — "Full sails hasting laden home".

Now the sails are pulled taut, the mother hasting not home but to the nearest dinner party where she can display her latest fashion accessory. Her bump is a badge to be proud of, especially for career girls who are proclaiming, Shirley Conran-style, that they are having it all. The very latest touch, I've noticed on the dinner-party circuit recently, is mothers-to-be wearing cummerbunds or sashes, as if they were Easter eggs, to exaggerate their tumms still further.

As one pregnant mother explained to me, the fashion has innumerable advantages. It's cheap, because you don't have to buy any special clothes (apart from a new T-shirt perhaps) but can wear all your old favourite leggings because they are made of Lycra and stretch. It's handy on the

rest of us who aren't pregnant but just a touch tubby, because no one can insult us by asking when the baby is due.

THIS is especially important at the moment, because to be fashionable now is to look as if you are pregnant — witness the plethora of billowing floral smocks and shapeless, unstructured dresses on sale. If you did want to adopt old-fashioned maternity-style wear, you need no look no further than the high street.

The unpopularity of grunge, and its failure to take off despite all the blandishments of the fashion editors, is proof that maternity clothes, even when they are fashionable to boot, have lost their appeal. There is a serious point behind the fashion statements on show in London's dinner-parties. Pregnancy should not be about hiding. The Christian ideal of marriage is about procreation, not concealment of the joy of an impending child. It's time for an enterprising manufacturer to start translating those Parisian T-shirts into English.

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Coming of age in deepest Southall

Young Asians are breaking out of their conventional image, reports Alice Thomson

We've seen them all before: plump cheeked Mr Patel the 24-hour grocer, lean Mr Shah the chemist, angry Mr Singh the dentist, demanding death for Salman Rushdie. If an Asian gets a look in on television it has to be as a stereotype: an anaesthetist in *Casualty*, a lab assistant in *Inspector Morse* or a harassed Pakistani corner shopkeeper in *EastEnders*.

British cinema is even worse. If you put aside the Asians in *Gandhi* or *A Passage To India*, only one film stands out, *My Beautiful Laundrette*. When released in 1985, its writer Hanif Kureishi observed that the film portrayed Asians as "drug dealers, sodomites and mad landlords", but as most Asians pointed out his juxtaposition of ruthless businessmen and gay relationships wasn't any more authentic.

Now there is *Wild West* billed as the first biryani Western, a film about a trio of brothers of Pakistani descent who dream of taking their country and western band from deepest Southall, in West London to the deep South. The vegetarian hero Zaf is neither a grocer nor a doctor and only wears white overalls when he is forced to try his hand at being a butcher. Ali flogs dodgy secondhand motors, Kay spends his time



Biriani Western: lawbreaking and stetsons replace Biryaleem and arranged marriages

falling off skateboards. Unlike the goody-two-shoes stereotype of Indian youth, the three boys are in constant trouble: blowing up police cars, feeding people's ears and fingers to their family. Ronwell and having OK Corral-style shoot-outs at bhangra dances.

The comic-strip farce is written by the young Asian playwright Harwant Bains. Although much of the action is mildly fantastical (the stars wear stetsons, cowboy boots and silver thongs) for once there are no stereotypes. "No one had yet captured the one I'd been part of when I was brought up in Southall — of being part of a group of people who were joking against the common estab-

lished notions of what young Asians should be in this country," says Mr Bains. While middle-class parents in Southall may be wringing their hands in despair at the film, most young Asians are thrilled that for once someone has bothered to think of them as individuals rather than just people who have arranged marriages.

Sarita Choudhury, the heroine of the film, has an Indian father and an English mother and has lived in Jamaica, Italy and Canada. "Indian children have never been part of the main cultural scene like black or white kids. We have always been pressurised into education,

getting our exams and a profession," she says. "There were no Indian role models so it never occurred to me to be an actress or singer. I did economics at university and only then changed to acting."

Young Asians are also finding a voice in music. Apache Indian, the 25-year-old Handsworth-born Hindu, has fused two apparently unrecognisable musical genres — Asian bhangra and Jamaican reggae — to make him Britain's biggest Asian pop star with his recent 20 single, "Arranged Marriage".

And then there is the search for the first Asian supermodel. "I thought we would be searching for the impossible because strict Asian families

look down on modelling," says Anupama Jaidka, who has just set up Britain's first Asian model agency. Miss Jaidka is a model and a classical Indian kathak dancer. She was also Miss Asia UK 1991. Although this year's competition was called off following protests from the Sikh community leaders, Miss Jaidka is convinced that most Asian women no longer think of modelling as leading to immorality.

"The mothers tend to support their daughters. It is the grandmothers who cause the problems. But children are becoming more independent. They are saying we are not just pharmacists we are artists, we want to be fashion designers, models and actors but we want to wear our traditional costumes as well."

Over one million Asians listen to Sunrise Radio, the 24-hour Asian station. Avtar Lit, chief executive, says, "Indians used to want to wear Biryaleem and be very conventional. But in the last five years Asian youth has changed... They say to their parents 'If you don't want to be part of this you shouldn't be over here'. In the south they don't just want to be punks now but super-punks and they often wear earrings. In the north they tend to be kept more closely in the family fold."

But why is it happening now? Mr Lit says: "Young Indians have a lot of trouble going into the professions. They may have the same education as their white contemporaries but at work they are treated differently. Now they are finding out that the arts are less biased. They are not being judged by some director of a company board, but by an audience who are liking what they see."

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Alan Coren



■ Suddenly the pressure is on to make it a cleaner, brighter world

I have the gravest misgivings about what follows. The hindsight which is bound to surface like a horrified periscope in the wake of its probable consequences will declare itself astonished that publication of the piece was ever allowed. Was there nobody at *The Times*, the hindseers will shriek, to read the writing on the wall and recognise it as the instruction for opening a can of worms? One, moreover, clearly bearing the skull-and-crossbones label of the Pandora Canning Company?

Well, yes, there was me, but while I know that even as I type these words I should stop myself from typing them, I cannot, for the urge to proselytise my new and terrible obsession is as strong as the obsession itself. It is the kind of obsession that empowers the obsessed to understand other, hitherto unfathomable obsessions. Suddenly you comprehend Marxism and golf. Mine, too, could sweep the world.

Quite literally. For sweeping the world is what it is all about.

Just when I had believed myself to have reached that age at which nothing was left to pop up and knock my socks off. Such temptations as one has had the nerve to nibble at have all been tested to their dared limits, and even the imagination has ceased to toy with what remains unsavoured. And then along comes a Bosch AHR 1000.

Last Friday evening, drinks in a neighbour's garden. Over the ginny rim, I noticed that, unfamiliarly, the terrace gleamed like an Arctic floor; more yet, it harmonised with the paths that radiated from it, glacially white. Though the sun was low and weak, I had to squint.

"You've had the roen in," I remarked. "You have new paving."

"Wrong!" he cried, and when I turned at the cry, I caught in his eye a glitter as diamantine as the glints in his pristine stonework. "It is the old paving. I have had the Bosch on it. Incredible, eh?"

A platoon of *pickelhaubers* materialised in my head, goose-stepping across his terrace. But since it could not, surely, have been as incredible as that, I begged his pardon.

"My new Bosch AHR 1000," he said. "It is an electric-powered high-pressure hose. It directs a jet of water 100 bar. It brings up stonework like new. It is, believe me, better than sandblasting."

I told him that I believed him, but it was, of course, not enough. We went to look at it. It did not look much. An oblong metal box attached by a rubber pipe to a nozzle lance, it might have been an insect spray. But a response was clearly required, so I said: "Can I have a go?"

"There's nothing to have a go on!" he smirked. "It's all done."

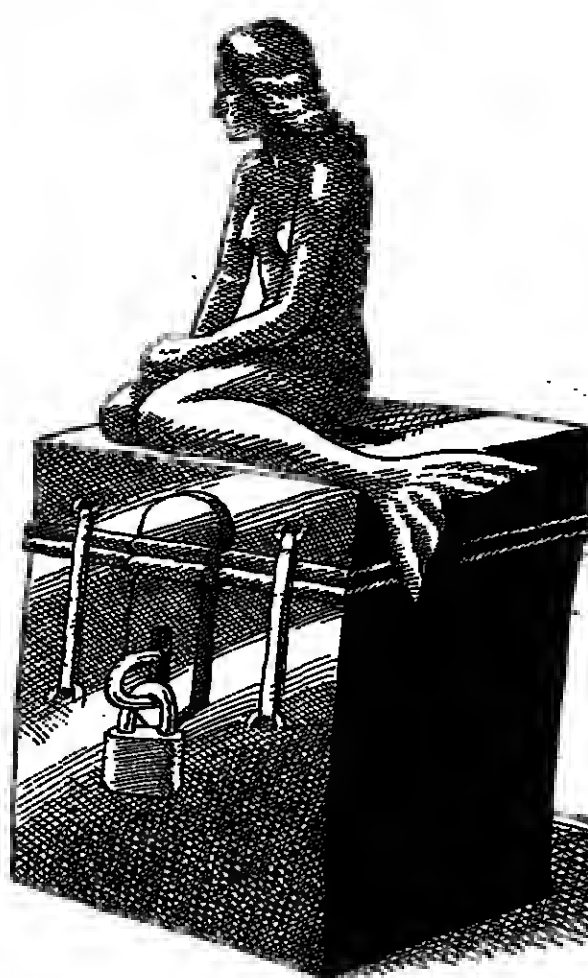
It was true. Gloaming had by this time darkened the vegetation, but the pathways stood out, clothed in white samite, mystic, wonderful. The garden might have been a *magisard* dropping zone; any moment now, a Lysander would throb overhead.

"Tell you what," he said, "put it in the boot. Try it at home."

Saturday? Saturday changed my life. From the instant the lance first lurched in my hand like Aaron's rod and carved a swathe through the septuagenarian moss of my path to reveal every terracotta birthmark, I was addicted. Justice to the sensation cannot be done in a respectable publication, but you are all men and women of the world. I do not need to draw pictures. I need only say that of all the many satisfactions with which the imagination might suggest comparisons could be borne, none even comes close. Furthermore, it offers, as so many don't, the bonus of altruism: hose-blasting is regenerative. It is redemptive. It is moral. It is good: it shines the world up a treat.

So why all that fuss at the top of the page? How can something so wonderful, how life! Because you can't stop doing it. I did the paths on Saturday morning, the terrace in the afternoon, the drive by nightfall. But then I found myself, like Alexander, weeping because there were no more worlds to conquer. Had my neighbour not arrived to reclaim his treasure, I should, despite the darkness, have cleaned the street.

I shall yet. The withdrawal symptoms being intolerable, on Monday I ordered a Bosch of my own, to refurbish Cricklewood. Tomorrow to fresh roads and pavements new. Or, when I've finished, as good as.



BALLOT



BULLET

House that Jacques built

Maastricht almost has its planning permission. Yesterday's Danish vote makes a yes from the British House of Commons more likely. Soon only the Lords and Germany's constitutional judges will stand between the treaty and ratification. But planning permission is not building. The ground has to be staked out, the money raised, the architect chosen. Maastricht is far from implemented. Plague the thought, the debate continues.

What now for those who still inhabit the Castle of Doubt? They have, in my view, three Maastricht stances from which to choose. All demonstrate the fashionable scepticism and meet the architectural temper of the times: classical, modern and post-modern.

The classicists want Maastricht demolished, and care little if it is buried in the rubble even if it is the prime minister. These purists, led by Lord Tebbit and William Cash MP, have pitched camp on the Acropolis and erected shrines to the Single European Act and the spirit of Bruges. They have recently added a Doric referendum, within which the sculptor Phidias is gilding a statue to the goddess Thatcher. They point out that none of these temples is yet complete, and say that until they are none should worship unknown gods.

The classicists point out that the European Community has a huge unfinished agenda, notably the 1992 single market. The new treaty reads today like some gothic text from the dark ages of European corporatism. To object to it is not to be anti-European: the treaty is dead. Nor should it be conceded on the basis that other signatories have no intention of implementing it. Honest men do not sign treaties they do not mean to keep. The hand that signs a treaty breeds a fever. Maastricht is a licence to federalist meddling. Ratify it and Jacques Delors and his successors will drag member states through the courts into a socialist uniformity.

Events in Denmark mean that John Major can now treat the classicists not just as reactionary but, more heinous, as disloyal to the leadership. This will send them more vigorously in the direction of referendum, where they have found respectable support from historians and lawyers. I believe the case for a plebiscite on Maastricht is strong, both constitutionally and politically. Mr Major might win it — overturning the polls yet again. He would also strengthen his own position in the process. But while his attitude to Europe is thoroughly confused, he has

After the Danish yes, in what style should the new Europe be constructed: classical, modernist or post-modernist?

never wavered in his opposition to a referendum. "It is not the British way," he says. A U-turn on this would surely be one too far.

Over cock-a-hoop. To them Maastricht ratification is part of the continuum of European rebirth. Trying to be up to date, they embrace a measure of scepticism. They deplore the past excesses of the style, the brutalism of Brussels regulation and the "high-rise" common agricultural policy. All this must stop, they say. And turning the tables on their foes, they argue that the key to stopping it is none other than the treaty itself.

Douglas Hurd lauds Maastricht as "the most decentralist measure since the formation of the European Community". He rests this case on the key role granted by Maastricht to the Council of Ministers, as opposed to the Brussels Commission.

The modernists' strongest weapon is a conservative one. The constantly evolving political structures of the European Community are the only ones available for thrashing out the commercial, agricultural and political differences within Europe. How inadequate the outcome proves does not matter. This is better than war.

The cause is lent support in Alan Milward's new work, *The European Rescue of the Nation State*. Pan-European institutions, he says, were what restored national sovereignty in Europe after the last war. They will go on doing so, provided the EC sees its job as resolving squabbles between states, not imposing supranational edicts upon them. The new EC must be consensual not imperial.

Of course, say the modernists, Britain can reject such co-operation, as Scandinavia and Switzerland may continue to do. The past is not necessarily the template for the future. But not to be "at the heart of a new Europe", as Mr Major puts it, is both a risk and beneath Britain's dignity. This Europe may be a concrete and glass monolith, may be an

Augen stables of corruption and waste. But Britain has often taken on itself the role of Hercules.

At this point, enter the post-moderns. To them, Denmark is neither here nor there. Maastricht is stillborn, dead in the water, rotten on the vine. Ratify or don't ratify, it makes no difference. The British, Italian and Spanish devolutions have torn out Maastricht's heart of monetary union. The adjustments required for the poorer countries to join the economic union and draw down the subsidies that still bind Greece, Italy and Spain to the cause, would impose on them a politically intolerable hardship.

Anti-federalist sentiment is rising among opposition groups in all southern countries. Ask an Italian steelworker to exchange his domestically subsidised job for a Brussels dole and he will opt to keep his "sovereignty" intact.

Maastricht, say the post-moderns, will now be ratified but in no sense implemented. It has a built-in self-destruct mechanism. It will honour de Gaulle's dictum that treaties are "like girls and roses, they last while they last". Little bit will be built here and there, but most will be chipped and cracked as they are passed back and forth between the Council of Ministers and the European Court. The Commission in Brussels will atrophy. Unable to curb corruption, extravagance and an instinct to meddle, the commissioners will lose power to sub-committees of the Council of Ministers. They will take after Unesco and Jacques Attali's bank, wallowing in luxury and job-for-the-boys.

The post-moderns will, I believe, dominate the next stage of the Maastricht debate. They will offer a new vision of 21st-century Europe, a pluralist, multi-faceted cocktail of alliances, each with a different purpose. They will render unto the Brussels Caesar a few important things that are Caesar's, such as commerce, trading standards or fishing limits. But nationalism will keep most of Maastricht's list of common

policies firmly in the individual capitals of Europe. Exchange rates, foreign and immigration policy, industrial subsidies, taxation and social security will remain "subsidiary", because no government will dare let it be otherwise.

The post-modernist agrees with the classicists that Maastricht was a treaty too far, but disagrees about whether this matters. He points out that all international relations must be built on domestic consent. If the German or French or Italian governments ignore this, they will be supplanted by leaders more in tune with public opinion. This has nothing to do with shared sovereignty or the role of parliaments. The public knows or cares little for them. It will respond to "Europe" in future by the favourable or unfavourable impact of policies on the ground, whether concerning hill farms or motorways or air fares or the density of beer or the regulation of health standards.

Maastricht is a treaty only in name. On any reading, it is a prospectus for a corporate state, born of Napoleonic flummery out of British Treasury centralism. It contains much rhetoric about the importance of "the Union". Member states are briskly ordered to "avoid excessive government deficits". Some clauses have an Orwellian ring: "The framework programme shall be adapted or supplemented as the situation changes." Others are pure Ruritanian: "A common foreign and security policy is hereby established."

The treaty is federalist in the sense that the early United States constitution was not: it is essentially centralist. The American constitution was confederal and entrenched the rights of states. The equivalent clauses of Maastricht, on subsidiarity, are legally empty. The American constitution was meant to bite. When the Southern states defected, it meant war. Should a state defect from Maastricht, I imagine the rest of Europe would yawn, turn over on its leather bed and ask Brussels to raise VAT and reallocate the subsidies.

In the light of the Danish vote, I would recommend the post-modernist style for students of Maastricht. It retains its scepticism, while the prospect is both eclectic and plausible. Post-modern also offers "hindsight insurance": I sense that in ten years' time we shall look back on 1993 and say to ourselves, "Heavens, did we really get so steamed up about Maastricht. What was it about? Funny little place in Holland isn't it?"

Studying the signals of war

Conflicting ground rules by Lawrence Freedman

As the conflict in Bosnia has worsened, the debate in the West on the principles and practicalities of intervention has intensified. There were never any easy options in Bosnia: now there are very few practical options either. The international community faces the choice of either standing by as the brutal logic of ethnic cleansing is worked out or sending in forces to protect Muslims and maintain some of the Vance-Owen plan, though without the agreement of all the parties.

The features of the strife within the former Yugoslavia provide only part of the explanation why the issue has become so vexatious. Involvement in any conflict where there is no direct threat to this country or its allies is likely to involve contradictory pressures which combine to produce unsatisfactory results.

When military action is geared to defence of the most vital interests, there is a compelling strategic imperative. In Bosnia there is an element of choice: there are the costs and dangers of going in but also the dire consequences, in terms of human suffering and growing instability, of staying out. There is a natural temptation to confine intervention to a level proportionate to what may seem to be marginal interests.

But it may be as difficult to have a marginal intervention as it is to have a marginal pregnancy. The first step into a distant conflict may be non-military, small-scale and non-controversial, but the credibility of the interveners from that time on becomes tied to a particular outcome. So it is that objectives for military intervention are set as a result of exaggerated expectations that non-military coercion will do the trick. The prudent military planner will start work as soon as an explicit international commitment has been made — even though the use of armed forces is being explicitly ruled out. If the fragility of Yugoslavia had been recognised in 1991, there would have been less reliance on strong words.

Insofar as such conflicts reflect an unstable political situation, the objective must be stability. The later the military deployments the more difficult the task will be. The ideal intervention is early, prior to chronic deterioration, when even a modest show of force may have a calming effect. However, the tendency to view armed force as a "last resort" means that it is rarely considered before matters become desperate.

Because the critical issues revolve around local territorial control, strategies that skirt around this may be of only slight consequence. Western air superiority and the fact that air-strikes carry nothing like the risks of combat on the ground, make it tempting to concentrate on measures such as no-fly zones. In reality the main struggle for power goes on on the ground — where there has been less success in establishing no-arms and no-ethnic-cleansing zones. There is a danger now in Bosnia that air strikes will be used out of frustration, but without any clear strategy for helping the Muslims.

All intervention involves political signalling, but it is not only the belligerents who receive the signals. The intervention chosen must convince a domestic audience or allies that something is being done, or to reassure them that not too much is being done.

Some believe that the mere act of using the military conveys a tough signal. However, if the symbol has no substance — if, for example, the deployment has extremely restricted rules of engagement — then a lack of resolve will be conveyed instead. "What is my next step if this one fails to produce results?" is an essential question.

To assume that an enemy will melt away as soon as the West flexes its muscles is foolish but, in the absence of another superpower from which to derive support, the possibilities of surviving a straight fight with the West are recognised to be low. On a number of occasions when the Serbs have worried about being on the receiving end of serious military action, they have become more conciliatory.

The vexing and perplexing nature of this sort of security challenge can be summed up in eight propositions:

1. The use of force to create stable conditions requires a close connection with a credible political process, which should also be used to ensure a smooth withdrawal.
2. However, success in stabilising may require a long-term military commitment: removal of troops may trigger a recurrence of instability.
3. Intervention is most likely to succeed when it is undertaken in a decisive manner at an early stage in a conflict.
4. However, successful intervention will require a coalition effort. It may be an unfortunate law of international affairs, especially in the media age, that by the time opinion can be mobilised to manage a localised crisis, it may be too advanced to be readily managed.
5. The longer a conflict is allowed to fester, the more likely it is that intervention will focus on preventing its spread on humanitarian missions.
6. However, humanitarian intervention cannot be politically innocent, as the civilian populations of opposing sides are rarely exposed to equal risks.
7. The unintended consequences of any intervention will always be as great as the intended consequences.
8. However, staying out is a form of intervention.

The author is professor of war studies at King's College, London. This article is based on his lecture yesterday at the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Grammar maketh man

OXFORD may be the home of lost causes, but the emeritus Wykeham professor of logic is not deterred by long odds. Michael Dummett is turning his attention to the thorny subject of undergraduate grammar and spelling.

Appalled by what he describes as the "shocking" grammatical incompetence of Oxford finalists, Dummett has written a book, *Grammar & Style for Examination Candidates and Others*, which Duckworth is to publish later this month. In it he outlines all that the ambitious undergraduate needs to know in the way of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Dummett, who has taught philosophy since 1950, says he was "stimulated to write the book by the experience of being an examiner and being shocked by Oxford finalists. My standards are really very ordinary, just those of any normal literate person."

Dummett does not believe the problem is confined to undergraduates. "There are frequently stylistic mistakes emanating from the general body of the university. They use twice as many words as they need, producing mind-

numbing jargon. Students are given a very bad example." He does not advance any reason for declining standards, but suggests that "it may be that the public schools teach in a more traditional manner and give more attention to grammar than state schools". And, on a day which saw him casting his vote with female colleagues to fight the "unconscious bias" against them, he suggests that more women lecturers might conceivably improve the quality of their students' grammar. "I would be very happy if it did. But I am not pinning my hopes on it."

Dog eats dog

THE trade magazine for journalists, *UK Press Gazette*, is consulting lawyers after a writ from Mirror Group Newspapers landed on its doormat. The writ alleges that the *Gazette* breached the *Mirror*'s copyright by publishing a column by Paul Foot, the investigative journalist who has since left the *Mirror* to join Private Eye.

In it, Foot was highly critical of Mirror Group management. The paper refused to run it. Tony Loy-



nes, editor of the *Gazette*, was happy to. Loynes was encouraged by a comment in this week's *Gazette* from *Mirror* editor David Banks on the very subject of breached copyright: "No editor should sue to suppress information."

Earthworks

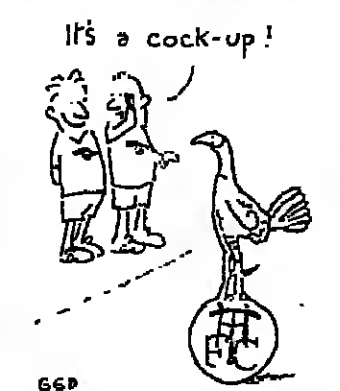
THE GREEN movement is in congratulatory mood after breaching the defences of one of Britain's more hallowed agricultural institutions, *Farming Today*. Radio 4's early-morning programme for farmers and early risers has recruited a new producer — from Friends of the Earth.

There may be snorts of disgust in the shires, but the appointment of Robin Maynard, Friends of the Earth's countryside, agriculture and transport campaigner, is be-

ing met with a public show of approval by the National Farmers Union. "He has an excellent knowledge of agricultural issues, and he will be mindful of his responsibilities to all the people who listen," says a spokesman.

The BBC admits that Maynard's past is likely to colour his approach to the programme, on which Everest heroine Rebecca Stephens once used to present commentaries about the state of the grain market. "It has been turning a darker shade of green anyway," says the BBC.

As longstanding rivals of Tottenham, Arsenal fans were never going to let pass such a heaven-sent opportunity for a spot of



Spurs-bashing. So, with the Gunners' FA Cup replay against Sheffield Wednesday approaching, the roads around Highbury were last night echoing to tuneful rehearsals of "Just a spoonful of Sugar helps the Venables go down, the Venables go down..."

Independent line

SIR DAVID ENGLISH, the chairman and editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers, has never been one to pull punches. So it should be no surprise that his review of *Paper Dreams*, a book purporting to tell the inside story of *The Independent*, is a holy-spiced mix of insult, derision and scorn. No surprise, but nonetheless embarrassing for the book's author Stephen Glover, who is currently employed by English as assistant editor of the *Evening Standard*.

English's review for *The Guardian* began: "If revenge is a dish best eaten cold, then this book is a lukewarm stew of soft-boiled score-settling" and continues: "One wonders why such books are written, let alone published." Glover, one of the co-founders of *The Independent*, is resilient in the face of such high-level criticism. "I think 'hard-hitting' is the euphemism we are looking for. I am amazed, but I do not think I shall

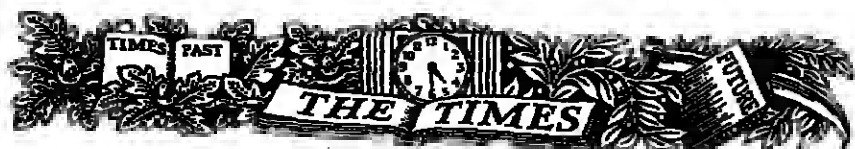
resign. I have resigned once, from *The Independent*, and one can't make a habit of it."

Marathon meal

TRAINING schedules and dietary restraint will be pushed to the back of Eamonn Martin's mind this evening when he enjoys his first night out with his wife Julie since his momentous victory in the London Marathon. Martin is being entertained to a menu of crab, caviar and beef fillet at the Ritz by his sponsor for the race, London Global Securities. The City firm has paid for a babysitter to look after Eamonn junior, who was born just a couple of days before the race.

"It's the first time we've had a chance to go out together since he was born," explains Martin. "And although I'm in training, I might have the odd glass tonight." But not that many — Mel Barry, Martin's trainer, is going too.

So where did Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage, get the extraordinary idea that the Japanese might provide funding to rescue his beloved Stonehenge? Could it be because just at the moment he was put on the spot by a TV crew, two Japanese tourists wandered unwittingly into view?



AN ANXIOUS YES

The Danish vote does not end Maastricht's troubles

Wearied by two referendum campaigns within a year, and overwhelming pressure from politicians and the media, it seems that the Danes have capitulated. As this edition went to press, they appeared to have agreed at last to allow their government to ratify the Maastricht treaty. But yesterday's decision should not be taken by other countries as a resounding vote for European union.

This was not a wholehearted, positive vote but a reluctant, negative one. Only after additional opt-outs for Denmark were agreed at Edinburgh on the common currency and common defence policy could a majority of Danes be persuaded to countenance ratification. They have accepted the treaty only as long as the main thrust of it is not applied to them. And they have done so not out of enthusiasm for the rest of its provisions, but out of fear that they will otherwise be cast out of the European club.

These fears, whipped up by politicians and the press, were baseless. But the risks were presented strongly enough to convince the Danes to vote against their instincts. Their instincts were right, and the politicians wrong. But it is hard for people to continue to believe in the rightness of their cause when they are so vastly outnumbered by those in the establishment whose voice rings louder and carries more weight.

The British government has been nervously awaiting this endorsement. A Danish "no" would have stopped British ratification dead. But if the prime minister and his foreign secretary are now tempted to sound triumphant, they will be making a grave mistake. One more battle may have been won, but the war continues.

Tomorrow's third reading of the Maastricht bill will encounter little opposition since Labour plans to abstain. But the history of this bill shows that there is many a slip twixt debate and ratification. None of the setbacks has yet been effective enough to destroy the bill altogether, but their cumulative effect has engineered numerous government climbdowns and embarrassments. The Lords may yet vote for a referendum;

the courts may yet uphold the separate legal challenges of Tory Eurosceptics and Labour supporters of the social chapter. Neither is probable, but both are possible. Meanwhile, there are legal hurdles still to be overcome in Denmark and Germany.

Even if the treaty is ratified by all 12 member states, trouble will still lie ahead for the British government. Ministers like to pretend — or perhaps they believe — that come the summer, with Maastricht behind them and economic recovery under way, their political difficulties will be over. But arguments about the exchange-rate mechanism will reassert themselves, and the Eurosceptics are not intending to give up simply because the treaty has been ratified.

Under the treaty, Britain may be excused from rejoining the ERM if it can persuade its European partners that it is unable to do so. But it will not be allowed to say publicly that it never intends to rejoin, since it is bound by the treaty to support the new European Union's general moves towards economic and monetary convergence. Ministers may claim that such convergence is now unachievable, certainly within the time limits envisaged, and that pressure on Britain to rejoin will therefore be limited. But they underestimate the extent to which other EC countries resent the competitive advantage Britain has won through a floating exchange rate, especially when coupled with its opt-out from the social chapter.

On the other side, they cannot ignore the fierce opposition to the ERM among their own supporters and in the country. Those who witnessed the debate on the economy at last year's Tory party conference were taken aback by the vehemence with which speaker after speaker denounced ERM membership and the pain it was causing. Their feelings were mirrored in the Newbury by-election and the recent county council elections. If Maastricht is ratified, even the weakest interpretation of its grand economic design cannot be implemented without a powerful political backlash. It is time the government admitted as much.

PATIENTS COME FIRST

The Allitt case should not be considered in isolation

The crimes committed by Beverly Allitt, the young nurse who murdered four children and attacked nine others at Grantham and Kesteven general hospital, have prompted calls for a full public enquiry which Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, will have to confront. The moment when a parent's grief becomes a nation's anger is not an ideal time to decide matters of public policy. But, although Mrs Bottomley has ordered an official enquiry under Sir Cecil Clothier QC, there are reasons to doubt that his planned investigations into the murders will go far enough.

The starting point has to be to determine why Allitt was taken on as a nurse in 1991, after being twice rejected and despite a "very unsatisfactory" interview. As early as 1986, physiotherapists at the same hospital had observed symptoms indicating that she was suffering from the personality disorder, Munchausen syndrome. Anticipating the rage which the case would spark, Mr Justice Latham said this week that the public had a right to know "what has been done, what is being done, and what will be done". But the Clothier enquiry is not empowered to subpoena witnesses and its hearings will not be public. Its remit, furthermore, may be too narrow to inspire public confidence and, above all, to guard against recurrences.

There seems little point in confining enquiry to the specifics of this case. Most of the local problems particular to Grantham and Kesteven have been tackled already in yesterday's independent report by Kenneth Baddley, former district general manager of Leicestershire Health Authority, which recommended radical changes in the recruitment and supervision procedures at the hospital. It is less likely now that Grantham and Kesteven will in future provide a niche for another Beverly Allitt.

But the questions raised by the case have relevance far beyond the walls of a single Lincolnshire hospital: they would be better addressed by a full public enquiry.

Beverly Allitt's career pattern bears an alarming similarity to that of Frank Beck, the Leicestershire care worker who abused 200 children physically and sexually over 13 years and headed three children's homes despite a series of police investigations. Both cases indicate unacceptably slack recruitment procedures in the caring professions.

Attempting to account for the errors which led to Allitt's employment on the paediatric ward, Allister Stewart, unit general manager at Grantham and Kesteven, said that the hospital had "no evidence" of any psychiatric or personality disorder, although they were aware of her repeated appearances for apparent physical complaints. This seems to imply that without concrete evidence of documented disorder, a prospective NHS employee — even one who is to be entrusted with the care of children — must always be given the benefit of any doubt: innocent, and therefore employable, until definitively proven guilty.

Many local authorities practise deliberate non-discrimination against job candidates with criminal or psychiatric histories. The social services seem close to regarding their employment policy as itself a social service: a way of providing employment for those whom the private sector might reject. Indeed, there have been cases other than Beck's of youth workers with previous convictions for sexual abuse staying in public employment. This investigation should leave no doubt that the safety of the public must take precedence over "fair" employment practices in the public sector. When the welfare of children is at risk, society cannot allow carers the benefit of the doubt.

CROSSRAIL AT THE CROSSROADS

A great opportunity for London is slipping slowly away

Poor public transport is probably the single greatest factor inhibiting confidence in London's future as a world business centre. Clogged streets, erratic buses, overcrowded Underground carriages, dirty, unreliable commuter trains are the stuff of daily exasperation that make the case for Frankfurt or Amsterdam daily more powerful.

Even the massive investment now pouring into the London Underground and Network SouthEast will take years to bring the system back even to the level of the 1970s. Moreover real improvement demands a commitment not just to patching and painting, but to the bigger projects necessary to turn a Victorian infrastructure into a transport system for the next century.

No single project is more important than Crossrail, the proposed £2 billion deep-tunnel mainline link between Liverpool Street and Paddington. While it does not have the political sensitivity of the Jubilee Line, on whose construction the future of the Docklands depends, Crossrail will do more to relieve Underground congestion, bring together west and east and integrate mainline commuter services.

Crossrail has become a model of sensible cooperation between British Rail and Lon-

don Underground, as well as a touchstone of the government's new commitment to public transport. That commitment is on the brink of betrayal. By failing to announce a timetable for the bill's second reading, the government appears intent on killing the project while seeking to evade responsibility or blame. The private bill has been before the Commons since November 1991; if it fails to get a second reading this summer, it will slip into the next session and will almost certainly be declared too old, and lapse. A new private bill will not be possible, as future transport projects will go through a new, public enquiry route. If the Crossrail project is to be the first test case, it could be another five years before the project can begin.

When Norman Lamont insisted in his last budget statement that private capital be brought in, the City of London quickly responded. New financial and engineering analyses again vindicated the Crossrail proposal, declaring it feasible and still viable with private money. But now the government is demanding a commitment in advance from the private sector before it will even give the political go-ahead for the line to be built. Even the most amateur entrepreneur would not buy such a pig in a poke.

Facts and figures in the Aids battle

From Baroness Cumberlege, Under Secretary of State for Health

Sir, Dr James Le Fanu ("The high cost of the Aids panic", *Body and Mind*, May 6) uses our success in containing the epidemic to argue that our action was misdirected.

Prompt government action in the early days of the epidemic has contributed to our relatively low prevalence levels. The World Health Organisation estimates that the true number of HIV infections in the UK is 24,000.

This compares with estimates of 150,000 in France, 100,000 in Spain and 70,000 in Italy. Heterosexual transmission of HIV is steadily increasing across Europe, including in the UK.

There is no vaccine and no cure for HIV/Aids and it would be irresponsible of the government not to inform people of the facts about transmission.

Initiatives aimed at those with behaviours that may place them at greater risk of infection may be less visible than information given to the public, but they are and continue to be integral to our prevention strategy. We have consistently cautioned that there is evidence of reversion to unsafe sexual practices among homosexual men and the incidence of rectal gonorrhoea among homosexuals strongly argues that we must continue our efforts.

Dr Le Fanu is wrong to suggest that more than £800 million has been spent on prevention.

In the eight years to 1992-3, £150 million was made available for HIV prevention work. This is a sound investment, given the high cost of treatment and care, for which, together with research and surveillance of the epidemic, funding of around £737 million has been allocated in the same period.

Government has made new money available for this work to ensure that

our response to HIV/Aids was not at the expense of other health programmes.

Yours faithfully,
CUMBERLEGE,
Department of Health,
79 Whitehall, SW1.

From Dr Peter Meers

Sir, A recent publication from the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) shows that, of homosexual men with Aids diagnosed in the UK up to March 1992, 701 (15 per cent) were bisexual. In the same period 365 women and female children were reported with Aids, but in only 38 was the infection judged to have been acquired from a "high-risk" partner without an overseas connection. This high-risk category includes males infected through drug abuse and transfusion, as well as bisexuals. The message is clear: the transmission of the Aids virus by heterosexual intercourse is extremely rare in this country, despite the existence of a large group of high-risk bisexuals. This has been obvious for some time.

Dr Le Fanu chides the CDSC for presenting statistics in a misleading way. The CDSC, which is an arm of the Public Health Laboratory Service, is powerfully influenced and scrutinised by the Department of Health. In 1986 the department committed itself to heavy publicity on the risks of heterosexual activity. It is not surprising if the CDSC's data have misled.

It must be hoped that the same does not apply to other matters of public health concern, such as salmonellas from eggs and mad cow disease. The cost of stubborn institutional error about Aids is measured only in money.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MEERS
(Deputy Director, Public Health Laboratory Service, 1982-6),
Dial Cottage, Ebbesbourne Wake,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
May 6.

Benefits of CrossRail

From Sir Michael Angus, President of the Confederation of British Industry, and others

Sir, The government's announcement, on October 9, 1990, of the go-ahead for CrossRail was welcomed unanimously by the financial and business community, as well as across the political spectrum. Since then, however — as the letter which you published today from the chief executive of London First and eight others indicated — there has been little, if any, progress.

If London is to remain one of Europe's leading capital cities, it will need a transport infrastructure to match. Indeed, Paris has already developed a similar project, clearly with the 21st century in mind.

While we all recognise the necessary constraints on public spending, we nevertheless believe that the government should take a longer-term view. We, in the private sector, no longer expect the Treasury to bear the full cost of CrossRail.

Indeed, the private sector has already indicated a willingness and ability to contribute substantially to the project.

However, the government has to take the lead and to demonstrate its commitment to the scheme. We agree with London First that this must, in the first instance, mean naming a day for the second reading of the CrossRail bill. Otherwise, the bill will be lost and London's transport system set back by at least five years.

Cyprus after Nadir

From the High Commissioner of Cyprus

Sir, Your article "Cyprus revives after Nadir" (May 13) is illustrated with a photograph of the fugitive from British justice, Asil Nadir, looking happy and content next to a lemon tree. To my mind it is simply the blatant promotion of tourism in the Turkish-occupied area of Cyprus. You even give the address of the so-called "North Cyprus Tourist Office" in London and name hotels "owned by Mr Nadir or his family".

I would like, therefore, to inform your readers of the facts as far as the real names and ownership of "Nadir's properties" are concerned:

1. Zephyros (now renamed Crystal Cove), which is situated in Kyrenia, belongs to Seashore Developments of the Cypriot company J & P.
2. Jasmine Court. The construction of this complex of hotel apartments started before the 1974 invasion and was finished by Asil Nadir. It is situated in Kyrenia and belongs to the Cypriot company Pharos Estates (49 per cent of the shares of which are held by Lombard North Central plc).
3. Constantia (now renamed Palm Beach) is situated in Famagusta and belongs to the Cypriot company Marangos Hotels Ltd.
4. Tony's Hotel and Louis Hotel are situated in Davos village and their owner is the Greek Cypriot Louis Ignatou.

Yours sincerely,
ANGELOS M. ANGELIDES,
Cyprus High Commissioner,
93 Park Street, W1.
May 13.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Shaw's will and the British Museum

From the Director of the British Museum

Sir, Lady Antonia Fraser and others (letter, May 13) contend that Bernard Shaw would have wished his estate to benefit areas of the British Museum for which the British Library now has responsibility. This could easily have been achieved. The skilled equity draftsman whose hand can clearly be seen in the wording of Shaw's will could have included binding conditions restricting the use of the bequest to the then library departments and their successors if the museum's organisation should change.

Yet Shaw did not do so. He left one third of his estate to the museum trustees "in acknowledgement of the incalculable value to me of my daily resort to the Reading Room". This is a reason, not a condition. Leaving aside the non-binding nature of the wording, it is far from obvious that Shaw would have wished his gratitude to be transferred to the building being constructed in St Pancras. Lady Antonia *et al* should remember that the Reading Room at Bloomsbury and the cost of running it will remain the responsibility of museum trustees.

Your correspondents' treatment of Sir Edward Boyle's statement to Parliament in 1959 suffers from selective quotation. The point at issue was not the trustees' treatment of Shaw's bequest but the Treasury's treatment of the museum in the light of that bequest.

The purpose of the parliamentary question was to extract from Sir Edward, as Treasury spokesman, a promise that the Treasury would not frustrate Shaw's intentions by reducing public funding to the museum by the amount likely to be available from the legacy. Sir Edward gave that promise and made it clear that "the bequest is unrestricted, in the sense that the trustees of the British Museum are free to do what they like with their portion of it".

He went on to cite the trustees' decision to build up "a capital fund" because the bequest represented a benefit which would be available only for a limited period.

It is true that as the original assumptions about the income from the bequest proved to be underestimates, the trustees reviewed their policy on the use of the bequest and increased the share of it used on the

non-library side. Given the shortage of funds for all sorts of desirable purposes, it would have been strange and even improper if they had not done so.

As a result of these policy reviews, by 1973 when the institutions separated, almost exactly the same amount had been spent on enhancing the collections which remained the trustees' responsibility as had been spent on those which passed to the British Library. Since 1973 the trustees have continued to use part of the bequest for the benefit of the British Library collections.

It is Lady Antonia and her co-signatories who wish Shaw's bequest to be used exclusively for the library and who are trying to use Shaw's will to support this aim. It was not Shaw's expressed wish.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. W. ANDERSON,
Director, The British Museum, WC1,
May 14.

From the Chief Executive of the British Library

Sir, Most of the questions posed by Lady Antonia Fraser and others about the application of the legacy of George Bernard Shaw by the British Museum fall within the province of the British Museum itself. One question, however, is addressed directly to the British Library.

We are immensely proud and grateful that many of the great literary and political figures of this country have donated or bequeathed collections of their personal papers to the British Library, where they become important primary source material for present and future generations of scholars. The library, in accepting these benefactions, undertakes to preserve the papers and make them available to readers in perpetuity, whilst respecting any other wishes expressed by their donors. This principle is enshrined in the British Library Act 1972.

Moreover, the British Library will never, in any circumstances that I can foresee, sell or give away any of its manuscript collections. It has never done so in the past.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LANG,
Chief Executive,
The British Library,
96 Euston Road, NW1.

Everest achievement

From Mr H. R. Wynne-Griffith

Sir, What a pity that we cannot recognise the achievement of Rebecca Stephens in being the first British woman to climb Everest (report, May 18) with the immediacy with which the French recognised the heroism of the schoolteacher and the fire brigade doctor in the besieged school at Neuilly by awarding them the rank of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (report, May 17).

Yours faithfully,
H. R. WYNNE-GRIFFITH,
3 Dulwich Wood Avenue, SE19,
May 18.

From Mr Tim Symonds

Sir, There is one definite way for Everest Sherpa Rebecca Stephens to get a quick honour (Diary, May 18), and that is to send in her sub to the Conservative party as soon as she returns to these shores.

Yours faithfully,
TIM SYMONDS,
8 Poterne Wick, Devizes, Wiltshire,
May 18.

From Mr M. N. Bland

Sir, Captain Hook's original name was, of course, Lieutenant Hook. However, the surgeons, when treating him for his battle wound, decided to take his name into account when providing a prosthesis for his damaged hand.

It was, no doubt, the psychological trauma of this decision that later caused the then captain to take up piracy.

Yours faithfully,
M. N. BLAND,
296 Henley Road,
Caversham,
Reading, Berkshire,
May 11.

From Wing Commander R. J. Allen

Sir, "Fingers"?
Yours sincerely,
R. J. ALLEN,
Royal Air Force Aldergrove,
BFPO 808,
May 11.

From Mr Philip D. Badrock

Sir, And he became a pirate following disciplinary action after his failure to comply with the order "All hands on deck".

Yours truly,
P. D. BADROCK,
Outwood, South Hill,
Chislehurst, Kent,
May 14.

From Mr Ian Moodie

Sir, I have a more serious problem than concern about Captain Hook's original name. I have worried for years about who keeps the alarm clock wound.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MOODIE,
61 Church Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
May 11.

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OBITUARIES

Admiral Sir Mark Pizey, GBE, CB, DSO, Commander-in-Chief Plymouth, 1955-58, and previously Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, died in Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, on May 17 aged 93. He was born on June 17, 1899.

MARK PIZEY first saw active service as a midshipman in the 'Dreadnought' HMS *Revenge* in 1916 at the Battle of Jutland, of which he is one of the last survivors. But he is perhaps best known as the officer in command of the six old destroyers from Harwich which made a gallant but forlorn attempt to halt the German battlecruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* and the heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen* during their celebrated 'Channel Dash' from Brest to the safety of the North Sea ports in February 1942.

The failure to stop these German heavy ships sneaking through the Straits of Dover under the very noses of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force caused a wave of public indignation. Throwing aside its customary wartime restraint, *The Times* thundered: 'Vice-Admiral Ciliax [the German force commander] has succeeded where the Duke of Medina Sidonia failed... Nothing more mortifying to the pride of sea-power has happened in home waters since the 17th century.'

That this had happened, however, was certainly not Pizey's fault. Indeed the valiant attempt of his hopelessly antiquated and totally outgunned force to make amends for the failures of Coastal Command and the Fleet Air Arm is one of the bright spots in an otherwise sad episode.

Ciliax's force had broken out of Brest late on the evening of February 11. But due to various mishaps — unlucky timing of air patrols and radar failure in those Hudson reconnaissance aircraft that were in the air — no intelligence of that fact reached England until mid-morning on February 12. By now the enemy was well past the mouth of the Somme and heading into the Straits of Dover at a brisk 27 knots.

A brave attack by six Fleet Air Arm Swordfish came to nothing; all the attacking aircraft were lost though it won its commander, Eugene Esmonde, a posthumous VC. Motor

ADMIRAL SIR MARK PIZEY



Torpedo Boat attacks from Dover and Ramsgate at midday failed, in the bad weather, either to locate the Germans or to penetrate Ciliax's destroyer screen. Piecemeal attacks by Beaufort torpedo bombers of Coastal Command in the early afternoon were likewise unsuccessful. By this time the British effort to stop the escapees was running out of options. At 1pm Pizey, commanding the 21st Destroyer Flotilla in HMS *Campbell*, was ordered by Admiral Ramsay at Harwich to do what he could to intercept the enemy. Pizey's destroyers were all of 1914-1918

of nine miles. Notwithstanding the fact that the battlecruisers packed nine 11-inch guns each against the six 4.7-inch guns of his destroyers, he unhesitatingly closed the range and at 3.43 pm sighted *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* at a range of only four miles. Realising a gun duel was pointless against such formidable opposition Pizey pressed on into torpedo range and at 3.500 yards *Campbell* and *Vivacious* both made torpedo attacks. A third destroyer, *Worster*, managed to get within 2,400 yards and was severely damaged by gunfire in doing so. In all, five destroyers attacked, but though hits were believed to have been made, the German ships managed to avoid all the torpedoes. However, their harassment may have been a contributory factor in *Scharnhorst*'s hitting a mine, which stopped her for a time. Altogether it was a valiant attempt, pressed home with fearless resolution, and perhaps deserved more success than it reaped.

Later attacks by Bomber Command could not prevent *Gneisenau* and *Prinz Eugen* reaching the Elbe on the morning of February 13. At the same time the damaged *Scharnhorst* limped into Jade Bay and berthed at Wilhelmshaven.

Charles Thomas Mark Pizey, was the son of the Rev C. E. Pizey, a Somerset vicar. He began his career in the Merchant Navy, but in March 1916, as a midshipman, RNR, was appointed to HMS *Revenge* in the Grand Fleet. In the year following Jutland he transferred to the Royal Navy.

Between the wars he had a number of sea appointments, including a spell in the cruiser *Danae*, in which he made a cruise round the world with the special service squadron. In 1929 he returned to his old ship, *Revenge*, as flag lieutenant-commander to Vice-Admiral Howard Kelly, second-in-command in the Mediterranean.

On the outbreak of the second world war he took command of the Cunard White Star liner *Ausonia*, drafted into the Royal Navy as an armed merchant cruiser for service in the Atlantic. In June 1940, he was given command of HMS *Campbell* as Captain of the 21st Destroyer Flotilla, operating in the Channel and North Sea. For his leadership in

escorting convoys up and down the east coast, countering attacks by enemy aircraft and E Boats, he was awarded the DSO in January 1942. Shortly afterwards he led the flotilla in its attack on the German battle cruisers, for which he was appointed CB.

Among his subsequent wartime jobs were command of the depot-ship *Time*, in which he was chief staff officer to the Rear-Admiral (Destroyers) Home Fleet. As such he took part in the escort of convoys to Russia — notably of PQ18 in the depth of winter — and gained a bar to the DSO. In 1944 he was appointed Director of Operations (Home), and served at the Admiralty for the rest of the war.

His postwar promotion was swift. After passing through the Imperial Defence College, he went in 1948 to Australia as chief of the United Kingdom liaison staff. From 1950 he was in the Mediterranean where he commanded the First Cruiser Squadron in succession to Earl Mountbatten. In 1951 Mountbatten chose him for secondment to the fledgling Indian Navy and he spent the next four years as Commander-in-Chief presiding over its development into a modern fighting force. As such he is regarded as the 'father' of the Indian Navy. He returned home in 1955 and was appointed Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth.

He retired in 1958 and he and his wife bought a smallholding at Sevington near Ilminster, where he reared pigs and she ran a highly successful market garden. For the last twenty years they had lived at Burnham-on-Sea, where Pizey was a Deputy Lieutenant for Somerset. He had been created KBE in 1953 and advanced to GBE in 1957.

When the destroyer *Campbell* had finally gone to the breaker's yard after the war Pizey had been presented with the ship's wheel. In his Burnham house it occupied pride of place in the front hall, where his wife made sure its brass fittings were kept highly polished.

His wife, Phyllis, whom he had married in 1928 and who gave him unstinting support in everything he did, died last month. He is survived by their two daughters.

JILL NEATE

Jill Neate, mountaineering bibliographer and historian, died suddenly on Blencathra Fell in the Lake District on May 12 aged 58. She was born on October 10, 1934.



JILL Neate's *Mountaineering Literature* (1986), an enlarged version of an earlier work, is a seminal work of its kind, the renowned authority on the literature of mountains and climbing. Bookshelves all over the world identify items in their catalogues by their 'Neate' numbers, and take immoderate delight when they are able to advertise some obscure piece of ephemera as 'Not in Neate'.

Born in Finchley, William Neate (as she then was) was educated at Merchant Taylors School and qualified as a chartered accountant, working for the Institute of Chartered Accountants. There she moved into management consultancy and company secretarial services.

William Neate had first climbed in Britain and the Alps in 1953, and gradually a holiday pursuit became an obsession. With his parents' death in 1970 he moved to Keswick in the Lake District and embarked on a career of mountaineering scholarship. At the same time there began the long process towards a change in sexual identity which culminated in the emergence of Jill Neate.

As regards her work, the patient accumulation of obscure detail suited her mathematical mind and contemplative nature. She set herself to chronicle the exploration of those areas of the world which received little attention in the standard literature.

Mountaineering in the Andes, which was first published by the Royal Geographical Society in 1987 as a source book for climbers, was an ambitious attempt to collate

the elusive literature of South American mountaineering. The project took seven years to complete, and since a large percentage of the two thousand and more references tracked down were in Spanish, it required her to add a working knowledge of that language to the French and German she already possessed. Other languages were added later, and she enjoyed corresponding with other enthusiasts around the world.

Her major work, *High Asia*, an illustrated history of the 7,000 metre peaks followed in 1989 to wide acclaim. She also produced a catalogue of Lake District writings and translated a number of books and guidebooks into English.

She was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and member of the Alpine Club. For a number of years she was an active member of the Keswick Mountain Rescue Team, attending over 200 rescues and searches with them, as well as organising exhibitions and lectures.

When not scrambling around the Lake District, she was fond of gardening, cats and browsing through second-hand bookshops. Although a very private person, she was a popular figure among the locals at Keswick.

WOLFGANG LOTZ

Wolfgang Lotz, master spy of the Israeli secret service, who operated in Egypt during the 1960s, died in Munich on May 14. He was born in Mannheim, Germany, in 1921.

WOLFGANG Lotz was a man of great charm with a taste for the good life which earned him the name of 'The Champagne Spy' from his paymasters in the Israeli secret service. Married five times, he lived a life of adventure which gained him a reputation as an Israeli James Bond.

His mother was a Jewish actress and his father, a non-Jew, was a theatre director in Berlin and Hamburg. 'I inherited a certain degree of acting ability from them both — a vital asset in my profession later', Lotz wrote in his memoirs. His parents divorced in the early 1930s and his mother, realising there was no future for them in Hitler's Germany, came with her son to Palestine in 1933.

Lotz was sent to study at an agricultural school where he developed his lifelong love of horses, which later provided

an important part of his cover as a spy. In 1937 at the age of 16 he joined the Haganah, the underground Jewish army in Palestine, undertaking mounted patrols through hostile Arab areas.

When the second world war broke out he forged the birthdate on his papers and joined the British Army as a volunteer. After commando training he was sent to Egypt where his linguistic skills in English and German (as well as Arabic and Hebrew) were used in behind-the-lines operations and the interrogation of German POWs.

After the war he engaged in arms smuggling for the Haganah and in 1948 joined the fledgling Israel Defence Forces fighting in the Jerusalem area. By 1956 he was a major with an infantry brigade which fought in the Suez campaign.

Twice-married and divorced by then, 'life was beginning to grow dull when I was approached by the Israeli secret service', he recalled.

In fact it was Israeli military intelligence which had spotted Lotz, who had taken the Hebrew name Ze'ev Gur-



Arieh, as a potential agent with just the right Aryan looks and qualifications for a planned insertion into Egypt as an ex-German army officer. Lotz had dual nationality and so could use his genuine German name and identity papers. His cover story had him living in Germany from birth serving in Rommel's Afrika Korps during the war and then moving to Australia where he had supposedly made a fortune as a racehorse owner and breeder before returning to Germany.

At the end of 1960, after a year in Germany to strengthen his cover, Lotz travelled to Cairo where his charm and big-spending won him entry into the fashionable Cavalry Club and gained him friends among Egyptian society and senior military officers, especially the club president General Ghorab — who was also head of Egypt's police force.

It was the general himself who suggested that Lotz establish a stud farm in Egypt and Lotz's position was cemented even further when a leading Nazi living in Egypt insisted that he knew the Jewish spy as a former SS officer.

On a return trip to Europe — ostensibly for business but in reality to meet his Israeli controller — Lotz was tasked with learning about Egypt's fortifications and military build-up, and with acquiring information on the German scientists and experts in aircraft, rockets and biological warfare who were being recruited by the Egyptians.

Setting off on the Orient Express for a leisurely journey back to Egypt, Lotz met Waltraud, 'a tall, extremely pretty blue-eyed blonde with

the kind of curvaceous figure I always had a weakness for.'

After a whirlwind courtship he married the German girl telling her he was a secret agent but only revealing some time later that he was an Israeli. His wife willingly helped him. Although not Jewish, she had a strong admiration for the Israelis.

But in February 1965, almost five years to the day that he arrived in Cairo, Wolfgang Lotz and his wife were arrested as spies. Egyptian security agents showed them the radio transmitter which they had found in his bathroom scales. Russian radio experts had helped the Egyptians trace the transmissions.

Lotz realised the game was up — almost. But he staunchly maintained that he was a German who had agreed to work for the Israelis only for money. The fact that he was never circumcised helped keep his cover intact, and saved him from being sentenced to death as a Jewish spy.

Lotz was given life imprisonment and hard labour while Waltraud was sentenced to three years in jail. Both were released together with four other captured Israeli agents in 1967 in an exchange deal for thousands of Egyptians taken prisoner in the Six Day War.

Lotz and his wife, who converted to Judaism, settled in Israel and started a horse farm. But Waltraud was in poor health and died in 1973. Her death and a series of business difficulties affected Lotz badly.

Eventually he tried to settle in Germany, writing books (including a *Guide for Spies*) engaging in business activities, and marrying (and divorcing) twice more.

Wolfgang Lotz is survived by a son from his second marriage.

Dom Bede Griffiths, Benedictine monk, died on May 13 aged 86. He was born in Walton-on-Thames on December 17, 1906.

DOM Bede Griffiths was an English Benedictine monk who pioneered a Hindu style of Christian monasticism. To his ashram in South India came numerous pilgrims, seeking to explore Eastern philosophies.

Alan Richard Griffiths was educated at Christ's Hospital and Magdalen College, Oxford, where C. S. Lewis was his tutor in his final year. The two men became close friends, having a love of imaginative literature in common. Religiously, though, they went in different directions. Griffiths was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1931 and entered the Benedictine monastery of Prinknash. He was ordained priest in 1940. In 1947 he went to the priory at Farnborough as prior, and in 1951 to the new Scottish priory at Pluscarden as novice master.

Griffiths had been studying the vedanta for many years when in 1955 he was invited to assist in the foundation of a Benedictine monastery in India. This was not a success but two years later, with an Indian priest and a Cistercian monk, Father Francis Mahieu, he founded a Benedictine community, Kurisumala Ashram, in Kerala.

They adopted the saffron habit of the Hindu yasis, following the life-style of the Indian peasant, even working a plot of land. Griffiths also organised a Tamil-Nadu weavers' co-operative. Liturgically, the community adopted the West Syrian rite. In 1968 Griffiths and two other monks moved eastwards to Saccidananda Ashram, at

Shantivanam, founded by two Catholic priests.

Griffiths and his companions now adopted a more fully Indian community style, in a sort of Christian ashram. Living in individual thatched huts, they met three times a day for informal prayer which included texts not only from the Bible and the Christian traditions, but from Vedas, the Koran and the Granth Sahib of the Sikhs. Every two or three years Griffiths would return to Europe and travel to America for a series of lecture tours.

His religious experiment was sometimes resented by his fellow Catholics, not least in India itself, but in 1982 his



ashram was able to make a link with the Camaldolese Order (founded 1012 AD), a monastic order which combined the eremitical and the communal ways of life.

This proved a welcome source of assurance, counsel and friendship. The intervening years had not been easy. People came and went and for a short time Griffiths was quite alone. A man of great gentleness, he was often exploited. However, eventually two long-time Indian brothers

persevered and became Camaldolese monks, eventually being ordained as priests at the church of San Gregorio near Rome.

Griffiths expounded his insights in books, partly autobiographical, partly theological and philosophical. *The Golden String* (1954) was immediately recognised as an exceptional work of religious autobiography. *Christian Ashram* (1966) outlined his ideas about how Indian Catholicism and the future universal church might develop. He believed strongly that Christianity needed to learn from oriental religions.

There followed *Vedanta and Christian Faith* (1974) and *Return to the Centre* (1976). With *The Marriage of East and West* (1982) Griffiths's life and writings began to interest a younger generation.

In 1989 he issued a final and detailed exposition of his ideas in *A New Vision of Reality*, a text challenging in a prophetic way all the assumptions of modern society. He envisaged the breakdown of modern civilisation, based on exploitation of scientific knowledge without regard for people or the world as a whole, urging again the spiritual truth found in all the great religions, while stressing the uniqueness of Christianity. His final book — though there is an anthology of world scriptures said to be published — was entitled *The New Creation in Christ* (1992); it was inspired by the upsurge in the number of Christian meditation groups and the work of Benedictine Monk Dom John Main.

He was the recipient of the John Harriott Award for his life's work from the hands of Cardinal Hume, though he could not be present personally due to a stroke.

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NEWS

Denmark says yes to Maastricht

■ Denmark said yes to the Maastricht treaty last night, with the first referendum votes counted predicting 55.8 per cent in favour and 44.2 per cent against.

"No" campaigners conceded defeat. Drude Dahlerup of the anti-treaty June Movement said: "It's a historic decision going the wrong way." As European partners breathed a sigh of relief, John Major prepared to speed Britain's ratification of the treaty. Pages 1, 11, 16, 17, 23

Russia drops Bosnia peace plan

■ Russia, acknowledging disarray over the Bosnian civil war, called off its proposed meeting of the United Nations Security Council. The Russians accepted that the allies had not yet concerted their plans, and brushed away suggestions that Moscow had been snubbed by America. Pages 1, 12

Tyneside enquiry

Sir John Bourn, the public spending auditor, agreed to conduct an independent investigation into Swan Hunter's loss of a Royal Naval contract which threatens to kill off Tyneside's shipbuilding industry. Page 2

Clarke attacked

The national conference of the Police Federation, which represents 120,000 junior police officers, was told that putting Kenneth Clarke in charge of policing was akin to putting King Herod in charge of Mothercare. The conference was debating his proposals for reforming police discipline. Page 2

Academic victory

Women academics and their supporters struck a blow for equal rights at Oxford University by blocking plans for 15 new professorships, which they feared would go to men. Page 3

Allitt challenge

Parents of the victims of nurse Beverly Allitt demanded a meeting with the health secretary to challenge her decision not to hold a public enquiry into events surrounding the killings. Page 5

Chess threat

The British Chess Federation is preparing to fight a threat by Fide, the game's governing body, to strip Nigel Short and Gary Kasparov of their official rating if they compete in *The Times* World Chess Championship. Page 6

Britons still hear the word of God

■ Britain remains a God-fearing country, according to a survey of 19,000 people in 14 countries. The United States tops the league table, but more Irish pray daily than believers anywhere else. In Britain nearly 70 per cent believe in God and more than half in life after death. More than four out of ten also believe in fortune tellers. Page 3

Elderly abused

Sexual abuse of the elderly is unrecognised because the public refuses to accept that many old people retain an interest in sex. Victims may be unaware or unable to seek help because they suffer dementia. Page 7

Pensions rethink

Peter Lilley will today bow to backbench Tory pressure and tone down plans to encourage people to have their pensions paid into banks, easing a perceived threat to thousands of post offices. Page 9

ANC policy shift

A significant shift away from the doctrine of unitary government by the African National Congress has paved the way for negotiations to begin at the multi-party constitutional talks on the shape of a post-apartheid South Africa. Page 10

Boycott blow

The American decision to boycott Friday's planned summit of United Nations Security Council foreign ministers on Bosnia-Herzegovina killed the meeting and threw peace efforts into greater disarray. Page 12

Coup trial halted

The trial of 12 former Soviet officials accused of plotting against President Gorbachev was suspended after the dismissal of the prosecuting team because of the publication of a book, *Kremlin Plot*, by the prosecutor-general. Page 13



Pointed out: Joseph Wright's *An Iron Forge*, saved from auction in November and acquired for £2.2 million in a private treaty sale, is hung yesterday at the Tate Gallery, London, in the room dedicated to other group portraits from the 18th century

BUSINESS

Pay boost: Marks & Spencer became Britain's most profitable retailer, earning £737 million before tax last year, and has given staff a 6 per cent pay rise. Page 23

BA cash call: British Airways is raising £442 million through a rights issue of new shares after pre-tax profits fell to £185 million from £434 million. Page 23

Markets: An early 11 point advance in the FTSE-100 was lost as dealers responded to disappointing manufacturing figures and cautious trading statements and the index closed down 10.8 at 2,847.3. The pound rose .96 pence to DM2.4852 but eased .42 cents to \$1.5320. Page 26

PEOPLE

Tennis: Monica Seles announced that she was withdrawing from Wimbledon and the French Open because of the injuries she received in a knife attack at a tournament in Germany last month. Page 40

Football: The Football Association has blocked Arsenal's plans to show instant replays during their match next season after the Highbury club announced plans to build two video screens at a cost of £2.5 million. Page 40

Cricket: England will attempt to put behind their disastrous winter tour of India and Sri Lanka when they meet Australia in the one-day international at Old Trafford today. Page 40



Ann Alexander, solicitor for eight families of victims of nurse Beverly Allitt, said an internal hospital enquiry had produced a cover-up. Page 5



Steve Backley has thrown his support behind a scheme, organised by the national coach, to find the next British javelin champion. Page 42



President Mitterrand said Channel tunnel travellers would race across France but "daydream" at very low speed in England. Page 1

THE TIMES TOMORROW

How to keep your council

■ Who will save the two-tier council system? Matthew Parris looks on his own doorstep to see the effects of local government reorganisation

Pirates on the palace steps

■ Buckingham Palace will soon be open to visitors. Will the touts be able to cope with the demand?

Tough guy pauses for thought

■ Jean-Claude Van Damme, the Hollywood hero from Belgium who usually lets his biceps do the talking, is making a bid for respectability with his latest film role

TV LISTINGS

British Rail's embattled south-eastern division comes under the spotlight in *Old, Dirty and Low* (BBC1, 9.30pm). Page 43

OPINION

An anxious yes

The Danes have accepted the treaty only as long as the main thrust is not applied to them. And they have done so not out of enthusiasm for the rest of its provisions, but out of fear that they will otherwise be cast out of the club. Page 17

Patients come first

The Allitt investigation should leave no doubt that the safety of the public must take precedence over "fair" employment practices in the public sector. Page 17

Crossrail crossroads

Crossrail has become a model of sensible co-operation between British Rail and London Underground, as well as a touchstone of the government's new commitment to public transport. That commitment is on the brink of betrayal. Page 17

POLITICS

SIMON JENKINS

In the light of the Danish vote, I would recommend the post-modern style for students of Maastricht. To this school, the treaty is still-born, dead in the water, rotten on the vine. Ratify or don't ratify, it makes no difference. Page 16

LAWRENCE FRIEDMAN

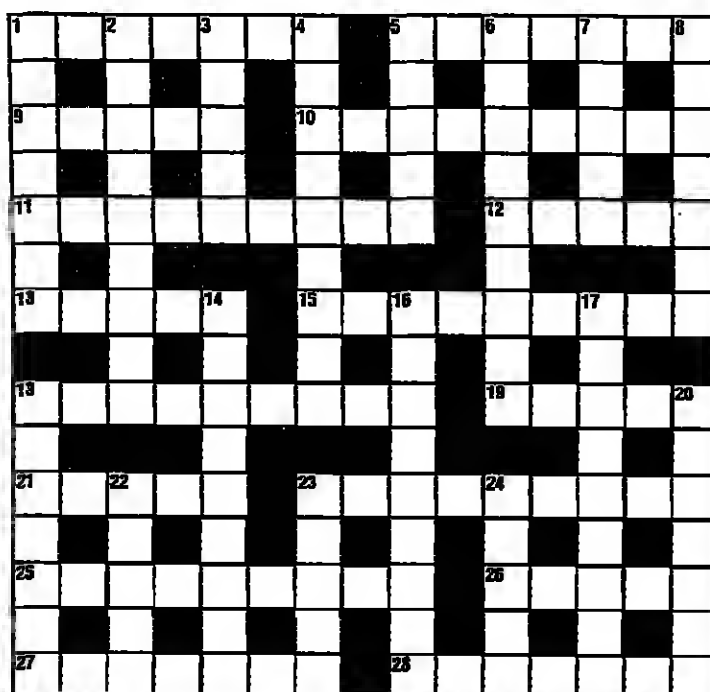
It may be as difficult to have a marginal military intervention as it is to have a marginal pregnancy. The tendency to view armed force as a "last resort" means that it is rarely considered before matters become desperate. Page 16

The British Museum and British Library reply to critics of the use of the Shaw bequest. Page 11

It's time for Clinton to use his powers of persuasion on the wisdom of taking action in Bosnia. He should ignore the weekend referendum and get on with his plans for bringing peace to the region. The referendum was a sham... guaranteed with intimidation. USA Today

It was no surprise that the referendum rejected the UN Vance-Owen peace plan. It preserves the formal structure of a unitary state, and the Bosnian Serbs reject such a state. The Washington Post

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,234



- ACROSS**
- Put in lodgings for three months (7).
 - "God help us", they say (7).
 - Cautious, that's about right (5).
 - Does he put out the Gulf States? (4,5).
 - Hotly pursuing and, for decapitation, snuffily capturing King Charles (2,4,3).
 - Gazelle showing spirit (5).
 - Verbally made fun of leader (5).
 - Pub ghost reported by policeman (9).
 - Lunatic or cynic, for example, of extreme coldness (9).
 - Mock wolf (5).
 - Simple one is found in the centre of church (5).
 - An area where understanding is lacking - poker stakes, all of them (5,4).
 - Worthy of repeal, but not in the usual way (9).
- DOWN**
- Jiffy as a ruler (7).
 - Unsubstantial, breezy creature of mythology (4-5).
 - Boy takes it climbing, going up and down (5).
 - Row about editor's price-cut (9).
 - Stalwart held up by normally feeble people (5).
 - Music-makers go fishing on Sunday (9).
 - Given time, one becomes a beautiful woman (5).
 - Church embraced by sunny student (7).
 - Chopper used to make meringue (3-6).
 - See garlic misused - that's blasphemy! (9).
 - Pay went on fluctuating everyday (3,1,5).
 - Spell may go wrong (7).
 - Fool brings two articles into fashion for a while (7).
 - At the first, inexperienced member played extremely long drive (5).
 - Copper coin in reserve (5).
 - Saints following doctor round? Rubbish! (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,233

PIPEDOWN STRIDE
I T A T E E
T R A S S E R W A N D
C T H A E E
H O U S E H O L D W O R D S
E R U V S N
R E S T A I R F O R E M A N
O E T A
C O R S A G E M E T O N Y M
R Q U A E G O
D O U B L E S T A N D A R D
E A T O N E
O R A L T A K E O U T S
L C O R R I S T
C Y P H E R P S A I N T E R I

Concise Crossword, page 44

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Dorset, Avon, Somerset	704
Berkshire, Oxford, Bucks, Essex	705
Bedfordshire & Essex	706
Northampton, Cambridgeshire	707
West Midlands & Shropshire	708
Stratford, Hereford & Worcester	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincoln & Humberside	712
Yorkshire & Cleveland	713
North East	714
W & S Yorkshire & Lancashire	715
NE England	716
Cumbria & Lake District	717
S & W Scotland	718
W Central Scotland	719
Edinburgh & Fife/Lowland & Borders	720
SE Central Scotland	721
Grampian & E Highlands	722
N & W Scotland	723
Galilee, Orkney & Shetland	724
N Ireland	725

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M4-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M4-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M4-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	734
M4-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Some central and southeastern parts of England will start cloudy with thundery rain, but will become brighter with sunny spells. The rest of England, and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, will start bright with sunshine, but scattered showers in western areas will become more general and locally heavy, perhaps thundery. Eastern coasts may be misty. Temperatures similar to yesterday's. Outlook unsettled, with rain moving north.

MIDLANDS

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Alcester	21	W 20	10	0.1
Alford	22	W 20	10	0.1
Alton	21	W 20	10	0.1
Alton	21	W 20	10	0.1
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Alton	21	W 20	10	0.1
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* denotes figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia	2.30	2.10
Belgium	17.00	17.00
Canada	54.20	54.20
Denmark	10.11	10.11
France	6.55	6.55
Germany	8.14	8.14
Italy	2.32	2.32
Japan	350.00	350.00
Netherlands	12.45	12.45
Portugal	205.00	205.00
Spain	166.00	166.00
Sweden	2.715	2.715
Switzerland	2.495	2.495
USA	1.62	1.62

Reates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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AY 19 1993

MEDIA 32

The Sun v the Mirror: battle of the tabloids

ARTS 33-35

Alan Bates acts the despot in a sour Austrian comedy

SPORT 40-44

Boardman finds new set of wheels

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ON WEDNESDAY Pages 30-31

THE TIMES

2

WEDNESDAY MAY 19 1993

M&S raises wages 6% as top earner in UK

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

MARKS and Spencer's dominance of the high street continued yesterday as the group recaptured the title of Britain's most profitable retailer from J. Sainsbury, the supermarket chain. M&S staff were rewarded with a 6 per cent pay rise, higher than the rate of inflation.

Pre-tax profit soared by 25 per cent to £737 million for the year to end-March 1993 as a result of tight cost control in the UK and strong growth overseas. Although group turnover rose by only 3.4 per cent, last autumn's "outstanding value" campaign, which froze or lowered prices across the board, helped boost sales in the second half by 4.9 per cent. That enabled M&S to increase its market share from 15.6 to 16.4 per cent.

Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman, said he was delighted with the performance against a backdrop of the "worst retailing recession for 60 years".

Profit from overseas operations leapt by 35 per cent, with a particularly strong performance from its five stores in Hong Kong. M&S has earmarked the Far East and continental Europe as prime targets for overseas expansion.

Sir Richard, undeterred by the spectre of recession on the Continent, hopes the group will eventually have about 50 stores in the region that would generate up to £750 million in sales. He insists this will be achieved not by acquisition but by the "slower and surer" method of organic growth and then only when "we can get the right sites, at the right price".

Even Brooks Brothers, which has long been seen as a thorn in M&S's side, came good last year, with a 20 per cent increase in profit. The Canadian operations, which lost £3 million in the previous year, were successfully turned



Suited for expansion: Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman, says M&S is in an aggressive mood for growth

round after the closure of about 50 stores.

M&S staff will receive a 6 per cent increase in pay, although Sir Richard does not expect this to affect profits this year as further productivity benefits from improved systems and ordering filter through. Nor were shareholders forgotten, enjoying a 14

per cent increase in the dividend to 8.1p.

The group is bullish about prospects and is planning to add 330,000 sq ft of selling space in the UK and the Irish Republic this year, including new stores in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Liverpool and Middlesbrough.

Sir Richard said: "In terms

of expansion, we are in an extremely aggressive mood again." Capital expenditure in the coming year will be increased from £190 million to £300 million, funded entirely through cash flow.

He vigorously dismissed suggestions by analysts that M&S, although resilient in recession, was less likely to

benefit from a consumer recovery. "That is a lot of old rubbish. We will do as well next year, and the year after that, as the goods we buy, the prices we charge for them and the service we give. If we get that right, as we have been doing, we will do well."

Tempos, page 27

Bank believes inflation will be kept within target

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England is more optimistic than it was three months ago that the government will be able to keep inflation within target over the next two years, largely because sterling has rallied since then.

In its latest inflation report, the Bank says a 5 per cent increase in the value of sterling since its last survey of inflation in February means the risk of breaching the 4 per cent upper limit of the government's target range has been lowered somewhat. However, the Bank adds that the risks are slightly higher next year, not least because of the effect of VAT on fuel, which will add 0.4 per cent to inflation from spring 1994.

Although levels of activity in the economy are rising more rapidly than the Bank expected three months ago, the news of a fall in industrial production in March underlines the uncertainties about how strong recovery is going to be.

The Bank makes no comment on its views about interest rates, but its relatively optimistic predictions on inflation and its continued caution on the recovery suggest a fairly relaxed attitude about rates. The Bank remains concerned about the effect of high levels of personal debt on activity, although this is proving less of a drag now than it has been.

The Bank is clearly happy that sterling's appreciation since February has provided an anti-inflationary counterweight to faster than expected activity, but will equally accept a fall in the exchange rate if the recovery shows signs of faltering.

The Central Statistical Office said that industrial production had fallen by 1.3 per cent in March, compared with

the previous month, and manufacturing output by 0.3 per cent. However, the fall in manufacturing, after two months of healthy rises, was entirely due to a fall in sugar production that had, in turn, boosted February's output figures.

Taking the CSO's preferred three-month measure, output has risen 2 per cent, compared with the final quarter of last year, and 2.1 per cent, compared with the first quarter of 1992. The CSO has also revised up its estimate of underlying annual growth in manufacturing to 4 per cent, compared with 3 per cent in February, and 0.5 per cent in January.

The Bank of England says it expects Friday's retail prices figures to show another drop in inflation because of the switch to the council tax from the community charge, but that then the underlying rate will rise again, to 3.5 per cent by June.

In the months to come, the inflation rate will be affected by higher indirect taxes, wages and the narrowing output gap. However, the Bank appears to believe that the output gap is sufficiently large to continue exerting downward pressure on inflation and also that, if the volume of output in the economy expands sufficiently, profits and wages might rise without creating higher inflation.

The pound strengthened on positive news on the economy, particularly against a weaker mark, which was undermined by exit polls showing that the Danes are likely to have voted in favour of ratifying Maastricht. Sterling ended at 80.2 on its trade weighted index, up from 80 on Monday.

BUSINESS TODAY

CASH HUNGRY



Allied-Lyons, which lifted profits to £505 million from £439 million last year, may yet attempt to raise new funds. Page 25

RUSSIAN PUSH

Sweden's Tetra Laval aims to establish a dominant market position in Russia before rivals wake up to the opportunities. Page 27

BID REBUFF

Rentokil

Securiguard has advised its shareholders not to accept Rentokil's surprise £59 million takeover bid. Page 24

THE POUND

US\$ 1.5320 (+0.0042)
German mark 2.4852 (+0.0104)
Exchange Index 80.2 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (Apr)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2647.3 (-10.8)
Dow Jones 3438.85 (-11.08)
Nikkei Avg 20229.39 (-336.12)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank 6.75%
US Federal Funds 3%
3-month Treas Bill 5.00-5.25%
Long Bond 6.95%

CURRENCIES

New York: London: £\$ 1.5315
SDM 1.6240
SWM 1.4789
SFK 5.4805
\$Yen 111.55
\$SDR 1.0889
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing (\$): AM 365.60 PM 367.80
Close 371.60-372.10
New York: 370.85-371.25

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 139.3 March (1.9%)
* Denotes midday trading price

BA confirms rights issue leak

By GEORGE SIVELL, CITY EDITOR

SIR Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, confirmed The Times report that the Stock Exchange is enquiring into apparent leaks of BA's £442 million rights issue.

He said: "I wish we could explain it. We do not know how it happened. Our board has asked for an enquiry. Our advisers have been approached by the Stock Exchange and our board has asked for investigations by our lawyers."

On alleged dirty tricks against Virgin, Sir Colin said he was confident about the positions of himself and Rob-

ert Ayling, the managing director. The matter was *sub judice*. He said the rights issue document would state that contingent liabilities would not, in aggregate, significantly affect BA's financial position.

BA shares rose 2p to 299p after yesterday's announcement of the one-for-four cash call at 24.5p and declaration of a fall in pre-tax profits from £434 million to £185 million for the year to March 31. Operating profits fell from £344 million to £130 million.

But the rights issue document highlights BA's need for cash. The airline ran up a

financing requirement of £1.115 billion after spending just over £1 billion on aircraft and other assets, and investing £574 million in USAir, Qantas and TAT European Airlines. Borrowings rose by £1.281 billion to £2.453 billion, against shareholders' funds that fell £70 million to £1.534 billion because of the write-off of £149 million of goodwill on acquisitions. The cash call will reduce debts from 160 to 100 per cent of shareholders' funds.

The total dividend for the year rises 4.1 per cent to 10.6p, out of earnings down

to 24.1p from 35.3p. BA carried 10.5 per cent more passengers last year and revenues rose 12.3 per cent. But the yield from each passenger fell because of competition and a shortage of passengers paying high fares.

The airline said capacity would rise 14 per cent this summer; it was confident of marketing and selling it. BA also said there would be no one-off payment for early retirement to Lord King, who retired as chairman, and became president, in February.

Tempos, page 27

Double talk on the single market

Why worry about Maastricht, simple folk have been told by the sophisticates. It doesn't really mean anything if you do sign, though terrible things will happen if you don't. For instance, although the treaty commits Britain to restoring sterling to the exchange-rate mechanism, it is argued that there is no deadline. Hence, there is really no commitment, since Britain can opt out of monetary union, to which the ERM is a prelude.

Possibly. Unfortunately, it is hard to know which bits of the European Community's constitution are merely decorative and which mean exactly what they say. Words treated as holy writ in one member state are greeted with a patronising shrug of the shoulders in another.

Take the single market — the great revolution of 1993, as it was tagged, until it happened. In Britain, trade free of internal barriers is seen as the core of the Community and treated with the same fervour and reverence that Belgians accord to monetary union. This interpretation does not seem to be universal. How many realised, for instance, during those mind-numbing negotiations to harmonise everything in sight, that the

copyright laws are quite different in Germany? Under German law, stoutly upheld in its courts, German composers and musicians enjoy copyright protection for 50 years but foreigners, including citizens of other member states, rate only 25 years.

Forget, for a moment, how ludicrously non-communautaire this attitude is, or how self-righteously the EC and America attack abuse of intellectual property rights in the East. More to the point, German law is plainly incompatible with the free movement of goods and services. Yet the commission has left record companies to fight their case through the European Court, with no certainty of outcome.

Indeed, the commission itself does not seem too fussy about the free market in cars, let alone a market open to free trade in them. On Monday, Martin Bangemann, the industry commissioner warned Japanese officials that they would have to cut imports again. In 1991, the EC supposedly agreed a transitional deal with Japan to freeze total imports to



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

them out of Italy and France. At Britain's insistence, the quota excluded British car plants.

A big continental car markets have shrunk, however, Japan's government has been bullied to cut exports to the EC by 6 per cent last year, then by 9.4 per cent in March. Now they are being pushed for further cuts on the ground that in France, Germany and Italy, the market was down 20 per cent in the first quarter and the total share of Japanese firms must not rise.

Poor Herr Bangemann is one of the saddest victims of Brussels, that protectionist disease transmitted by close contact with herds of EC officials and diplomats. Back in Germany, this hearty giant was the foremost champion of free markets and deregulation. Even in 1991, as a commissioner, he told European carmakers

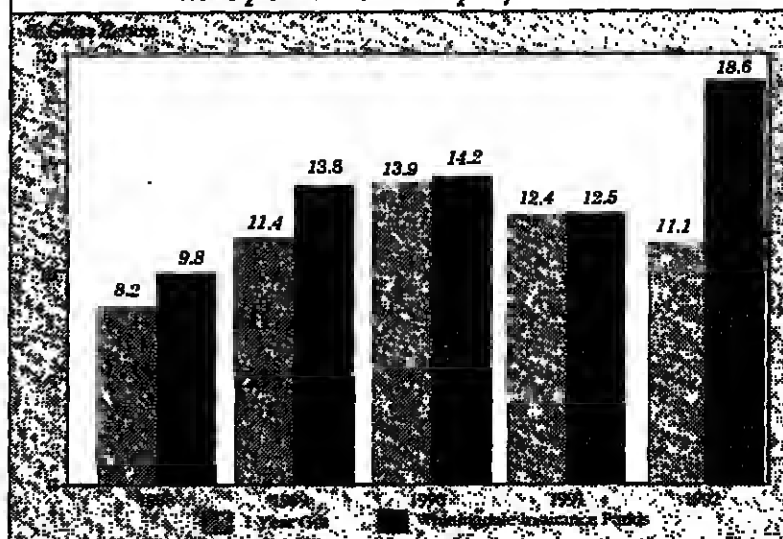
they must challenge Japanese competition by efficiency, not protection. Now he is hopelessly infected.

The real threat, however, is that British car exports to the Continent could be excluded from the single market after all. Gerard Longuet, France's industry minister, supported by Italy and Spain, called last week for a combined freeze on Japanese imports and Japanese-owned production within the EC. They seem determined to blame Britain's "transplant" factories, for their domestic problems.

The commission is unlikely to lump British production into a formal Japanese market share. Rather, estimates of the downturn in the market used to browbeat Japan will be bent so as to take account of British production. Even worse, Japanese companies will be bullied not to accelerate expansion in Britain, rather as France made an example of Hoover to bully other firms not to move to Britain. These are flagrant breaches of the single market. But then, to continental states, so is Britain's resistance to rules that symbolised by the Maastricht social chapter. In coming years, that will surely prove the most powerful weapon against the single market rules.

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Rentokil surprises market with £59m bid for Securiguard

RENTOKIL, the environmental services group, launched a surprise £59 million cash bid yesterday for Securiguard, the security and cleaning company. The Securiguard board told shareholders not to sell, saying the offer significantly undervalued the company.

Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive, said he had requested a meeting with Securiguard's board to explain the offer and to seek its recommendation. The bid values Securiguard shares at 270p, a 46 per cent premium to Monday's closing price. The announcement sent the shares soaring to 283p while Rentokil lost 4p to 193p.

Mr Thompson said the aim was to take Rentokil into the security business in the UK and America. He said that the UK market was worth £500 million and that Securiguard's share was about 10 per cent. It also had an office cleaning business in America, which was complementary, while the UK cleaning business was compatible with Rentokil's.

Mr Thompson said the bid valued the company fairly and included a premium for Rentokil obtaining an entry

■ Rentokil, which is sitting on net cash in excess of £100 million, believes it can diversify into the security business without denting its 20 per cent a year growth target

into the security business. The cost of financing the bid at the current level could be borne easily by Securiguard's profits. The company had cash on deposit of £104 million at the year end.

Christopher Pearce, finance director, said no contact had been made with Securiguard before the announcement because of fears that news of a bid might leak out and affect the share price.

If successful, the bid would almost double Rentokil's staff to 30,000 while increasing turnover by more than a third. Buying Securiguard is likely to involve a goodwill writeoff for Rentokil of about £57 million because Securiguard has only £2.6 million of net assets. It was floated on the USM in 1987 and expanded with acquisitions sustaining goodwill writeoffs of £36 million.

Securiguard shares have recovered from the battering they received in 1991, when the company reported a col-

lapse in 1990 profits to £3.9 million from the 1989 peak of £6.2 million. Turnover for the year to last November 1 was £165 million and pre-tax profits increased 14 per cent to £5.7 million, of which the security business contributed £3.4 million before interest costs. Securiguard's cleaning business earned pre-interest profits of £2.8 million. The messenger business brought in £1.3 million. HeMan, Securiguard's personnel business, made a loss of £500,000.

As well as its original business of keeping mice out of buildings and dry rot out of timber, Rentokil also provides cleaning and hygiene services for offices and shops and is the leading supplier of decorative trees and indoor plants. Profits rose 29 per cent to £122 million with earnings per share also up 29 per cent, ahead of the management's stated target of 20 per cent growth per annum in profits and earnings.



Seeking recommendation: Clive Thompson wants to explain the bid to the target's board

Fisons rejects calls for merger

By COLIN CAMPBELL

FIONS' shareholders yesterday criticised the board for the group's recent poor financial performance and called for a merger.

Patrick Egan, the chairman, told the annual meeting that Fisons' North American horticulture business was being sold for \$60 million and that the proceeds would be used to reduce borrowings. He said

Fisons would concentrate on its core pharmaceutical and scientific equipment activities.

However, shareholders said that the board had lost credibility in the market place as a result of two years of lower profits and because of the withdrawal this year of the drug tephedane. One said: "Maybe now is the time to consider a merger so share-

holders can look forward to some future growth."

Mr Egan rejected the merger calls, saying that Fisons was confident it had the right strategies and capital investment in R&D to create further growth. It would, however, continue to seek collaborative alliances with other firms.

Market reports, page 26

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sedgwick profits dip in the first quarter

TOUGH market conditions and lower interest rates caused first-quarter profits at Sedgwick Group, one of the world's largest insurance brokers, to slip by £800,000 to £40.7 million. The shares fell 1p to 169p on the news. Sax Riley, chief executive, said there was "a long way to go before we see the upturn". However, there were signs that rates were hardening in some areas of business.

Brokerage and fees increased 3 per cent, to £204.9 million, but on a like-for-like basis the rise was 2 per cent. Expenses advanced 4 per cent to £171.3 million, compared with £146.7 million last time. Lower interest rates in the US and UK knocked investment income down to £10.9 million, from £13.3 million. Operating income was flat at £44.5 million. There was a £400,000 loss from River Thames Insurance, of which Sedgwick owns 49 per cent.

Linx issues warning

LINX Printing Technologies, the printer maker that was floated on the stock market six months ago, gave a warning that increased competition and the recession would result in profits failing to meet expectations for the year to June 30. Linx said that the pre-tax result would be about the same as the £1.64 million achieved last time, below expectations when it announced interim results in March. The company is also reviewing its sales and marketing strategy in continental Europe. A final dividend of 1.73p is likely, making a total payout of 2.8p. The shares fell 36p to 139p.

Bruce field on stream

BP said oil began to flow yesterday from the Bruce field in the North Sea northeast of Aberdeen. The first oil flowed at a rate of 5,500 barrels per day (bpd). This will rise to 80,000 bpd by October. The first gas export from the field is scheduled for October when it will flow at an initial rate of 430 million cu ft per day rising to 530 million by 1994. The Bruce field is being developed in two phases at a cost of £1.5 billion. BP has a 37 per cent stake; Elf Aquitaine 31.5 per cent; Hamilton Oil 16 per cent; Total 11 per cent and Lasmo 3.75 per cent.

Tale of two quarters

EVIDENCE that industry is easing out of recession came with the results of Diploma, the electrical components-to-building products group, where pre-tax profits in the six months to end-March trebled to £8.1 million (£2.5 million). Christopher Thomas, chairman, said it was a game of two quarters — "with considerably greater buoyancy in the more recent period". Turnover jumped from a shade under £62 million to £74 million, and earnings rose from 7.3p to 10.7p a share. The interim dividend is lifted to 3.5p (2.75p) to balance out the yearly payment.

C&W revaluation

CABLE and Wireless, the telecommunications group that owns majority stakes in Mercury and Hong Kong Telecom, said its profits for the year to March 31 would be affected by an exceptional charge of £34 million because of the revaluation of its submarine cables. The charge will be partially offset by an exceptional profit of £60 million on the exercise of warrants in Hong Kong Telecom after the merger of Hong Kong Telephone and a C&W subsidiary. The company said that the 1992-3 accounts would also show a £118 million profit from the sale of 20 per cent of Mercury.

Concentric improves

CONCENTRIC, the West Midlands automotive and industrial components group, has failed to benefit as much as it expected from sterling's devaluation last autumn. The company said in October it felt the negative effect of collapsing markets in mainland Europe would be offset by the benefits to exporters of the pound's devaluation. Yesterday, Concentric announced interim pre-tax profits up 23 per cent to £4.35 million (£3.52 million) for the six months to end-March. Earnings per share rose to 5.63p (5.38p) and the interim dividend is held at 1.77p.

Elswick chief to retire

BILL Cross, right, will retire as chairman of Elswick, the specialist label printer, after the annual meeting in July and will be succeeded by Lord Lane of Horsell. The company said it detected early signs that the recession was easing and reported pre-tax profits of £1.9 million for the year to end-January, against a restated loss of £1.5 million. Earnings were 0.78p a share (0.82p loss). A final dividend of 0.15p makes a total 0.3p (0.22p). Elswick said all markets were tough, particularly in the final four months.



Young Holdings rises

H. YOUNG Holdings, the marketing and distribution company, is holding the interim dividend at 2p a share and has promised a final dividend of not less than 1p. In the six months to the end of March, pre-tax profits rose to £532,000 from £427,000 on sales of £16.3 million (£15.6 million). Earnings were 2.15p a share (1.72p). Operating profits from continuing operations were £166,000 (£69,000). John Wilson, the chairman, said the performance was encouraging given the patchy improvement in the economy after a relatively poor first two months.

Fenner shares slide on warning of losses

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

FENNER, the Humber-side engineer whose shares price has been buoyed recently by takeover speculation, yesterday saw the shares drop 6p to 77p on sharply reduced profits at the halfway stage and a warning of likely full-year losses.

The group, where Wassall, the 1.6 per cent shareholder, is the main perceived predator, made taxable profits of only £105,000 in the six months to end-February, against £2.3 million in the same period last year.

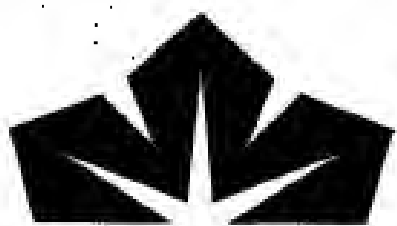
The main damage was inflicted by a £1.4 million exceptional rationalisation charge, a mixture of professional fees for an abortive takeover bid and

redundancy costs associated largely with the conveyor belt business. This division was affected by the pit closures. However, it is trading satisfactorily now, directors said.

Fenner also said that further exceptional charges would be necessary in the second half as rationalisation and disposal of some businesses that are not performing well continues apace.

Earnings per share of 0.41p last time were transformed into losses of 5.24p this time. The interim dividend is passed.

The company confirmed that it was still talking with parties interested in the group.



B.A.T INDUSTRIES

Extracts from the Chairman's speech at the 1993 Annual General Meeting on 18th May.

"In covering the Group's prospects for 1993, I am conscious that the outlook is rather more fraught with uncertainty than is usually the case at this stage in the year.

The sluggish world economy is impacting our cigarette exports. The recent escalation of the price war could adversely affect US cigarette profits. In the UK the strength of the growth of the "green shoots" will be the measure of the recovery in Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar. The volatility of the sterling/dollar exchange rate is relevant to the translation of our results.

Nevertheless, for the Group as a whole, the balance of our business in personal financial services and tobacco, coupled with the wide geographical spread, should enable us to report substantial growth in revenue and profits this year. Earnings per share will be even greater as a result of the Enhanced Share Alternative, if approved:

In conclusion, this may be a year of uncertainties, but I am confident that B.A.T Industries will, once again, reward shareholders with dividends significantly in excess of the rate of inflation, whilst continuing to rebuild our dividend cover."

SIR PATRICK SHEEHY, CHAIRMAN

For a copy of the full speech contact B.A.T Industries p.l.c. Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

مكتبة من الأصل

LWT buys 14% stake in rival Yorkshire

By MARTIN WALLER

LWT (Holdings), the London weekend broadcaster, has acquired a 14 per cent stake in Yorkshire Television Holdings. LWT is also acquiring warrants in Yorkshire that would bring its holding to almost 17 per cent if exercised. The price is £14.9 million, payable to WH Smith, the existing stakeholder.

Yorkshire shares ended 3p higher at 175p. Sir Christopher Bland, LWT chairman, refused to rule out further share purchases, although under existing legislation governing the television sector a 20 per cent limit is set on companies of the size of Yorkshire.

Yorkshire was itself created by merger with Tyne Tees last year and has one of the biggest levies payable to the government under the new franchise payments, a total of about £60 million a year.

At the heart of the new relationship between the two companies is LWT's appointment to sell Yorkshire's advertising airtime. Yorkshire initially approached the London company to suggest this, and the shareholding grew out of these negotiations.

The hiring of LWT will mean 65 to 70 job losses at Yorkshire's sales operation but will offer millions of pounds in potential savings. Sir Christopher said the link would be broadly neutral in 1993 and enhance his company's earnings thereafter. He did not agree with the reported views of some City observers that Yorkshire may run into financial difficulties before the end of the current franchise round.

Yorkshire also issued interim figures to end-March that showed pre-tax profits falling to £3.79 million from £9.63 million, although this is not directly comparable because of the widespread changes in the industry. The half-way dividend is held at 3.3p.

Tempus, page 27

NIE wants small investors

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UP TO two thirds of the shares in Northern Ireland Electricity will be offered to small investors in a privatisation expected to raise nearly £400 million. As expected, the government is to sell the company outright, clearing the way for the completion of power privatisation through the sale of the government's remaining 40 per cent stake in National Power and PowerGen, the two generating companies, next spring.

More than 600,000 people have registered interest in buying shares in NIE, raising the possibility that the offer, which is small by privatisation standards, will be heavily oversubscribed.

Terms of the offer are typical. The minimum number of shares available will be 100, payable in two instalments, with the first payment of £1 a share. The second instalment will fall due in June 1994.

About a third of registrations have come from NIE customers who, if they keep the shares, will be entitled to electricity vouchers before the second instalment is due. The share price will be announced on June 3, and would-be investors have until midnight on June 1 to register.

In the year to end-March, NIE made a pre-tax profit of £57.9 million on sales of £452 million. However, it has since issued a debenture under which it will be obliged to pay the government £70 million at the end of June.



Healthy outlook: Michael Jackman, left, and Tony Hales, announcing the results yesterday, were confident all divisions could increase profits this year

Allied-Lyons expected to raise cash after profits improve

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

ALLIED-LYONS' widely expected £200 million cash-raising exercise, already the subject of a Stock Exchange enquiry after rumours in the weekend press, could come today, after it failed to coincide with the food and drinks group's preliminary figures yesterday.

Michael Jackman, the chairman, denied that any rights issue was planned but refused to rule out a convertible bond issue. Although it is by no means certain that Allied will be able to get the issue away, observers expect it to take place soon, if at all.

Allied has reported pre-tax profits of £505 million (£439 million) for the year to March 6, using the new FRS3 accounting principles that suppress profits taken from property disposals. Under the previous accounting conventions, the figure would have been £620 million. A final dividend of 14.05p makes a total of 21p (20p).

Of Allied's four core divisions, only spirits and wine increased profits at the trading level, rising £10 million to £421 million. Retailing slumped £7 million to £217 million as Allied sold 550

pubs. Margins were under pressure in brewing, where over-capacity has required the big brewers to offer large discounts to the independent pub operators. Brewing profits dropped £8 million to £69 million, while food fell £14 million to £90 million.

The group is confident it can raise profits in all divisions this year. Tony Hales, chief executive, said: "The two main economies which affect our business, the UK and US are both looking a little healthier. We expect further benefits this year from a lower pound."

With total trading profits £14 million lower, the rise at the pre-tax level came from a £30 million reduction in finance charges and lower reorganisation costs. A revaluation of Allied's licensed estate resulted in a £312 million reduction in values. £41 million of which came off profits as it reflected severance of the tie with the brewery.

There was a further £17 million provision for bad loans to the free trade, bringing Allied's total provisions so far to £28 million.

Total borrowings were cut £112 million to £1,818 million and would have been £175

million lower but for the pound's devaluation.

Allied also announced the purchase of Perrier-Jouet/Barton & Guestier Distribution, a French distribution company owned by America's Seagram spirits group. The purchase comes after the termination in January of the distribution agreement between Seagram and Hiram Walker, Allied's spirits and wine business, covering France and Germany. A German acquisition should follow this summer.

Tempus, page 27

Hanson still seeking big acquisitions

By SARAH BAGNALL

LARGE acquisitions are still on its agenda. Hanson, the Anglo-US conglomerate, said yesterday as it reported flat first-half pre-tax profits.

Hanson, which last year was thwarted in its attempts to buy Ranks Hovis McDougall, reported pre-tax profits of £507 million (£500 million). But the figure was boosted by a £40 million disposal profit and £36 million net interest income.

Record profits from tobacco and timber products were offset by weak margins in building and construction. Hanson said that while it was looking for acquisitions, the best opportunities for growth would come from investing in the existing businesses.

Lord Hanson, chairman, said reports from the US and UK indicate the emergence of a "brighter picture". But margins remain tight, he said, and it is "unlikely the present signs of recovery will bring significant additional contribution to profit this year".

The maintenance of the quarterly dividend at 2.85p, coupled with the more upbeat statement, helped contain the share price fall to 5p, to 238p.

In line with analysts' expectations, the group's tax charge rose from 17.4 per cent to 26.4 per cent, reflecting last year's change to quarterly dividend payments. As a result, fully diluted earnings per share fell from 8.5p to 7.7p.

Hanson, a barometer of the state of the economies on both sides of the Atlantic, reported a 7.5 per cent rise in turnover to £4.8 billion and a £10 million rise in trading profits to £226 million at the US Hanson Industries.

The star performer was Cavenham Forest Products, which almost doubled profits to record levels of £50 million as a result of sharp rises in timber prices and increased construction activity.

Martin Taylor, vice-chairman, said the other "highlight" was Imperial Tobacco,

which lifted profits from £131 million to a record £140 million. This reflected the rise in UK market share to 35 per cent and increased efficiencies.

Partly offsetting these gains were lower profits from Peabody, the US coal mining operation, which was hit by lower coal prices and higher customer stockpiles. Part of the £19 million drop in profits to £54 million was due to a month-long strike.

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Projections on power scaled back

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of power bills rising to finance vast numbers of unnecessary power stations is fading, according to the National GridCo company.

Projections of a huge surplus of generating capacity developing because of the dash to build gas-fired plants have been scaled back sharply in its latest seven-year statement.

GridCo said closures of older coal plants and the cancellation of some new gas power stations had combined to cut the likely surplus. But Matthew Siebert, of Hoare Govett, suggested GridCo had started to make a more realistic assessment of the likelihood that many investors would abandon building plans.

Surplus capacity on the system is now projected to reach between 24 and 48 per cent of peak demand. A year ago, GridCo suggested the margin could reach more than 60 per cent. The projected rate of electricity demand growth over the next seven years has been revised from 1.1 per cent a year to 1.6 per cent.

BOC sees signs of economic recovery in Britain and US

By COLIN CAMPBELL

THE BOC Group had noticed signs of economic recovery in Britain, America and Australia in the past six months but said yesterday the Continent, where BOC was less exposed than many of its competitors, remains "the odd man out".

Patrick Rich, chairman, added that what recovery there had been was, however, far weaker than at the equivalent

stages of previous economic cycles.

Pre-tax profits at BOC were £182.4 million, compared with £162.7 million, for the six months to the end of March on a turnover of £1.51 billion against £1.37 billion, but exchange-rate movements had a beneficial impact on translation into sterling.

At constant rates, operating

profit less interest would have risen 3 per cent from £216.9 million to £223 million.

Operating profits were stronger in the Asia/Pacific basin, in the Americas and from Africa, but were flat in Europe.

BOC would have to rely on trimming costs as much as upon improved demand to generate modest underlying profit growth, Mr Rich said.

Operating profits from healthcare operations were 14 per cent higher, though the strong growth noted in the first quarter did not continue in the second three months. Profits of the pharmaceutical products division were beginning to be affected by the onset of generic competition.

The order book in the vacuum technology and distribution services division was encouraging, the company added.

Net borrowings had risen by £172.3 million since September to £891.1 million to put gearing at 32 per cent, but much of the rise was associated with currency movements and the interest cover at five times remains very satisfactory, Mr Rich said.

In Japan, the sharp fall in economic activity during the past six months might now be coming to an end, while the concerns about political conditions in South Africa and their potential impact on the economy remained, Mr Rich said.

The interim dividend rises from 11p to 11.6p.

Tempus, page 27



Cost-cutting plans: Patrick Rich, chairman of BOC

Resilient performance establishes sound base for growth.

Pre Tax Profit		Earnings per Share*		Dividends per Share	
1992/93	1991/92	1992/93	1991/92	1992/93	1991/92
£505m	£439m	35.2p	34.0p	21.0p	20.0p
Up 15.0%		Up 3.5%		Up 5.0%	

*Normalised

52 weeks to 6 March 1993 on an FRS 3 basis.

"The twelve months were no easier for Allied-Lyons PLC than for any other international business. It is especially pleasing, therefore, that apart from achieving a higher and better quality profit, I can also report significant progress in the process of change inaugurated in 1991/92.

Our operations are well positioned and we have made a promising start to 1993/94 but much will depend on the performance of the major economies.

Our employees' enthusiasm and skill have been soundly proven once more, their success reinforcing my belief that the group's future is a bright one."

ALLIED-LYONS

Michael Joshama
(Extracts from the Chairman's Statement)

Union denies fresh insider trading claims

By COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

AS STRIKES in eastern Germany's engineering and metal industries appeared to be nearing an end, IG Metall, the union behind the action, denied fresh allegations that its leader, Franz Steinkühler, had engaged in insider dealing.

It was responding to allegations in a regional newspaper that said Herr Steinkühler, 55, member of the supervisory board of Daimler-Benz, Germany's biggest industrial group, had made handsome profits on deals in shares in financially troubled AEG, just prior to its acquisition by Daimler in 1985.

On Monday, Herr Steinkühler admitted buying DM1 million worth of shares in March in the Daimler holding company, Mercedes Holding, which was subsequently dissolved in a share swap. But he denied that the DM100,000-plus profit the deal brought involved insider

trading, which is not illegal in Germany. He said he had no knowledge at the time of the plan to dissolve the holding company. Edward Reuter, the management board chairman of Daimler, supported Herr Steinkühler's explanation. Jörg Barczyski, the IG Metall spokesman, yesterday denied press reports that claimed Herr Steinkühler had made a profit through insider trading in AEG shares.

But the spate of political scandals in Germany that has brought down Björn Engholm, the opposition leader, and threatens Theo Waigel, the finance minister, has created a climate of opinion that will make it difficult for Herr Steinkühler to remain at the helm of IG Metall. The leading German financial newspaper, *Handelsblatt*, said he had lost all credibility through his Daimler share dealing. The allegations against him have raised the hackles among union members and politicians who have been angered by Herr Steinkühler's support

for strike action at a time when eastern German companies are struggling to survive. The Steinkühler case is also likely to open a debate about the automatic inclusion of union leaders on company boards.

Count Otto Lambsdorff, chairman of the Free Democrat party, junior partner in the coalition government, urged Herr Steinkühler to quit all his seats on company boards. Wolfgang von Geldern, a Bundestag member for the Christian Democrat party of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, said knowledge of the Mercedes share swap was irrelevant, as "one does not speculate in shares in a company whose affairs one is supposed to be scrutinising".

Workers in four east German states have agreed to settle their pay dispute, after a deal that will raise wages to 80 per cent of west German levels by the end of this year. But union members in the Berlin Brandenburg region intend to maintain their strike.

BAT sees the main chance in Britain

BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services group, believes its best opportunities are likely to arise in Britain, Sir Patrick Sheehy, chairman, told the annual meeting. The Far East offered long-term possibilities, but prices in continental Europe were still too high to meet the company's criteria on value for money.

Sir Patrick said the sluggish world economy was having an impact on cigarette exports, and the recent sharpening of the price war could adversely affect US cigarette profits.

Nevertheless, the company expected to report "substantial growth" in revenues and profits this year, and to make payouts significantly above the inflation rate, while rebuilding dividend cover. BAT shares ended 12p to 856p.

Dowry cuts jobs

Dowry Aerospace, acquired by TI Group last October, is shedding 214 jobs, a fifth of the workforce, at its landing gear plant at Staverton, near Gloucester. The cutbacks bring total job losses at Dowry Landing Gear to more than 1,300 over the past 2½ years. Andy Stevens, general manager, said cutbacks were needed to ensure the business was "the right shape and size for us to succeed in the future". The company has asked for volunteers for redundancy.

Car sales fall

New car sales in Europe fell 18.6 per cent in April, to 1.09 million, according to French car industry sources. General Motors' market share rose a percentage point, to 13.2 per cent. Only three firms' sales rose compared with April 1992 - Rover, up 0.4 per cent to 27,472 units; Toyota, up 8.6 per cent; and Chrysler, a niche player in Europe, whose sales rose 28.3 per cent to 4,429. Total sales from January to April were down 17.6 per cent against 1992.

China venture

Foster's Brewing Group said its Carlton and United Breweries unit had signed a joint venture agreement with Huangguang Brewery, in Shanghai. Carlton would provide 60 per cent of the capital for the venture. Investment would rise from an initial A\$30 million (£13.7 million) to A\$120 million over four or five years. "Foster's plans to brew almost as much beer in China as in Australia within five years," the company said.

Warburg buys

5G Warburg Group is to acquire KC-CO, an American derivatives firm, for about \$15 million. KC-CO, a partnership that trades on the Chicago Board Options Exchange and Chicago Mercantile Exchange, has net assets of about \$22.4 million. Financing of the purchase includes \$15 million of Warburg ordinary shares and warrants to subscribe for a further 9.75 million shares.

Electrolux slips

Profits at Electrolux, the Swedish electrical appliance company, fell by a fifth, to 202 million crowns (£17.9 million) in the first quarter. Sales were almost flat when adjusted for exchange-rate effects. The company said its businesses were increasingly competitive and operating profits had improved in most countries.

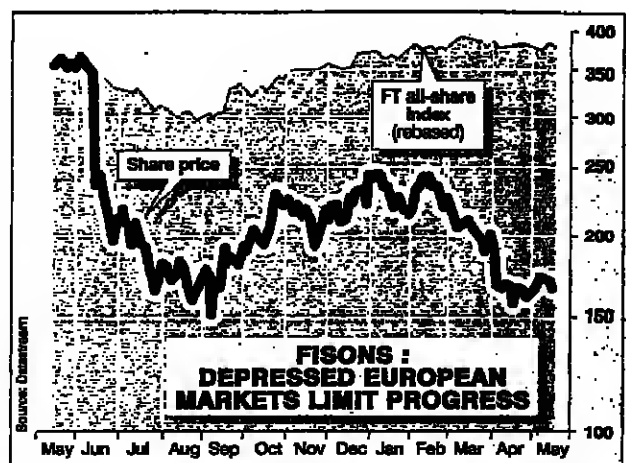
US homes rise

Construction of homes in the US rose in April, indicating that a drop in March was caused by adverse weather. April housing starts rose 6.7 per cent to 1.2 billion annualised homes, the Commerce Department reported. Analysts had expected 1.12 million for last month.

Gas deal

British Gas is launching a joint venture with Tenneco Gas to develop natural gas transportation projects in South America. This month, British Gas set up British Gas Sudamerica to provide services to gas, water, telecommunications and electricity companies in South America.

Food companies choke on BSN's slimline cuisine



2,847.3. Second-liners fared somewhat better, with the FT-SE Mid gaining 5.2 points to 3,151. Volume reached 633.4 million shares.

Meanwhile, Securguard provided much of the early excitement, after Rentokil, the environmental services group, launched a hostile 270p-a-share cash bid for the security

There was selective support for several stocks exposed to property, bolstered by reports of a positive property review from James Capel. Forte added 3p to 193p, Ladbroke 7p to 184p, P&O 5p to 596p, Land Securities 11p to 559p, Great Portland 7p to 180p and MEPC 8p to 426p.

to cleaning and courier services group. This compared with Monday's closing price of 185p for the target. Securguard rejected the offer, saying it significantly undervalues the company.

The FT-SE 100 index, up 11.1 points at one stage, closed below 2,850, finishing the day 10.8 points lower at

that Rentokil's offer is at an earnings multiple below the market average and is merely a "sighting shot". Rentokil shares eased 4p to 193p.

As expected by most in the City, British Airways accompanied lower full-year profits, after a fourth-quarter loss, with a big cash call. BA is raising £441.8 million through the fully underwritten one-for-four rights issue, at 245p a share, the proceeds to be used to reduce borrowings.

BA shares eased only 1p to 296p, as the cash call had been largely discounted by many in the market.

Among others reporting, Marks and Spencer unveiled an impressive profits rise to a record £736.5 million, topping Sainsbury as the UK's most profitable retailer. This initially attracted support, but the shares gave up a 10p gain to finish 9p lower at 345p as dealers became cautious.

Sainsbury, down 3p to 456p, was largely underperformed by being pushed into second place, with most investors encouraged by the strong showing of retailers during the recession. Among other

retailers, Asda staged a turnaround to finish 3½p better at 68½p, on heavy volume of 10 million shares, with Goldman Sachs said to have been active on behalf of a big US buyer.

Allied-Lyons also gave up an early lead to close unchanged at 543p after the food and drinks combine reported a healthy profits rise and higher dividend. There was also relief at the absence so far of the much-rumoured convertible preference issue or any other form of cash call.

Fisons was a nervous market as Patrick Egan, chairman, told the annual meeting depressed European markets and continuing pressure on margins in the scientific instruments division would limit progress in the first half of this year. The shares fell 3p to 169p despite Fisons agreeing to sell its North American horticultural business. Mr Egan assured the meeting that finances are sound.

The imminent full

Market whispers suggest it is worth keeping a close eye on Laura Ashley, unchanged at 110p. There are suggestions that the home furnishings to clothing retailer, which has its annual meeting tomorrow, has turned the corner and brokers' profit upgrades may be on the way.

demerger of Zeneca from ICI attracted early support, although most gains were trimmed or wiped out towards the close. Confidence should be boosted by news that Zeneca board directors were buying the fully paid Zeneca when-issued shares at a price of 636p. On the official grey market, Zeneca gave a 7p

PHILIP PANGALOS

Placing to raise £3.4m for Drew Scientific

By MARTIN FLANNAGAN

KEITH Drew, chief executive of Drew Scientific, the analytical instruments maker, is to receive £1.3 million when he sells shares in the group as it comes to market next week.

The company is floating via a placing of 6.99 million shares and the other eight directors will receive £1.7 million overall. After the placing, at 105p a share, which gives Drew Scientific a stock market price tag of £25.2 million, the directors will still speak for 47.7 per cent of the group.

Drew, which makes instruments for monitoring diabetes, is raising £3.4 million through the placing to underpin expansion.

Mr Drew said: "The past few months have seen a rapid increase in sales of the group's products across the world, demonstrating that market acceptance for our products has been achieved."

It was also impact day yesterday for a placing and intermediaries offer of 2.8 million shares in RPK, which makes rigid plastic packaging. The issue price is 125p, giving RPK a market capitalisation of £75 million. At the issue price, the historic p/e ratio is about 15, compared with a sector average of about 20.

After the placing, the directors and employees will retain a 20 per cent stake in the business. The placing and offer will raise £33.7 million net, mainly to fund growth.

World Markets

Nikkei suffers as buyers take profits

Tokyo - Shares ended lower in an absence of buyers before several company earnings announcements. Profit-taking and arbitrage unwinding dominated the market and the Nikkei dipped below technical resistance at about 20,300.

Investors wanted to follow through on the NTT buying which emerged on Monday as there weren't many others poised for an uptick in their earnings," said one analyst at Yamaichi Securities.

The Nikkei average was down 336.12 points at 20,229.39.

Hong Kong - The market stayed higher in quiet afternoon trading with most investors sidelined pending fresh news, brokers said. The Hang Seng index was up 25.95 points, at 7,150.07, a new record intra-day high.

Singapore - Shares rebounded strongly from a bout of profit-taking on Monday to see the 30-share Straits Times Industrial index set a new all-

time and closing high of 1,878.01. Brokers said buying demand was strong. The index was up 31.74 points from Monday's close, having risen to a record 1,868.71 in intra-day trade on Monday but fell prey to profit-taking after the bulls' 80-point rise. "The bulls are here to stay," said Goh Heng Fong, head of research at Lum Chang Securities.

Sydney - The market fell at the close as investors reacted to a half of a US cent fall in the Australian dollar and lower commodity prices. "The market has been down from the start," one broker said. The all-ordinaries index closed nine points down at 1,677.9.

Frankfurt - Shares ended only a fraction above their lows, pulled down by weak Bund futures in the last hour of trading. The Dax index closed just 0.60 points above Monday's finish at 1,628.48. (Reuters)

Inflation fears dent Dow

New York - Blue chips traded in a tight range after a higher opening, buoyed by a 6.7 per cent increase in US housing starts during April.

But by mid-morning, equities had fallen, although computer and healthcare groups were making a strong showing and there was a small bounce among bank stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down nine points at 3,439 and shares gaining in price were about even with those losing ground. Treasury bonds were mostly un-

changed, with the long bond down ½ cent to yield 6.98%.

Analysts said that continued strength in drug and some technology stocks would offset nervousness in the financial and transport groups that was caused by inflation fears. An early rally was possible.

They added that a mid-session rally attempt was possible by investors who see any setback as a bargain opportunity but added that there was not enough conviction or buying power to sustain momentum. (Reuters)

Portugal passes the port for wider economic tone

By COLIN NARBROUGH

POKOT and Madeira are dear old friends to British investors, but the Portuguese want to attract fresh inward investment from Britain to expand industry and tourism in O Norte, the port-making region, and develop their Atlantic island of Madeira as an offshore financial haven.

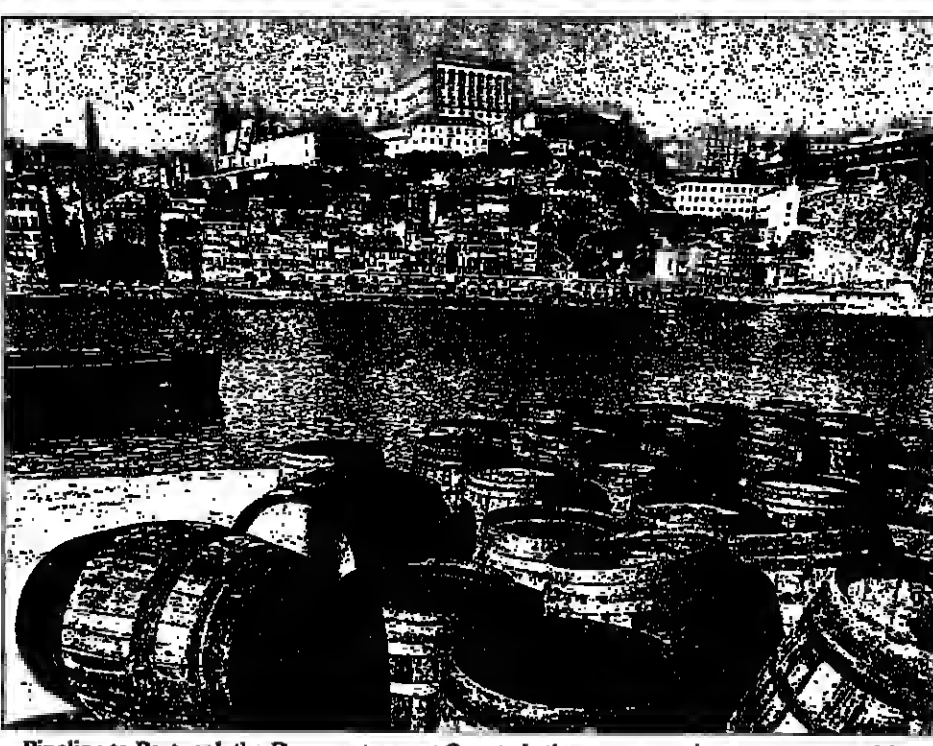
Traditionally the biggest source of foreign investment in the Portuguese economy, Britain last year accounted for 22.3 per cent of the total, well ahead of France and Spain.

An investment roadshow organised by the Portuguese UK chamber of commerce made clear to a London audience yesterday that, since joining the European Community in 1986, Portugal has become more attractive to foreign investors. As well as its low wages, the tax regime has become more favourable and foreign exchange controls lifted.

The 6.5 per cent escudo devaluation on Friday followed an 8 per cent cut in the peseta, reflecting Portugal's need to be competitive with Spain, its main trading partner.

Ronnie Price, the chamber's director-general, said the bulk of British investors have been in holiday homes and property, with big players. But he stressed that the Portuguese are trying to foster more diversified investment. This was highlighted by the securing in 1991 of a \$1.5 billion joint venture between Volkswagen and Ford to build multi-purpose transporters near Lisbon.

Inward investment fell 3.7 per cent last year, mainly due to the VW-Ford deal boosting the 1991 figure. Total foreign investment in 1992 was 427 billion escudos (£1.8 billion). Banking and finance drew about a third of all inward investment, followed by property with about 25 per cent. The remainder was spread across industry, with small



Pipeline to Portugal: the Douro estuary at Oporto is the gateway to investor opportunities

and medium-sized enterprises particularly favoured.

Jorge Veiga Franca, senior executive of the Madeira Development Company (SDM) noted the exceptional tax advantages the autonomous region of Madeira offers. Robert Thomas, manager of the Lisbon office of Arthur Andersen, the accountant, said the offshore holding company Madeira provided rivalled the popular Dutch holding vehicle.

Mr Thomas said cash and

tax incentives to inward investment in Portugal meant that foreign companies could look forward to a tax holiday until 2001. The absence of minimum capital requirement for companies also presented a "window of opportunity" for investors.

The hardest sell came from Rodrigo Sarmento de Beires of the commission for the economic development of O Norte, the northern region of the wine-making Douro Valley and Oporto, the industrial

city that gave the drink its name. Senhor Sarmento underlined that the region was the centre of a coastal strip from the northwest tip of Spain to the Algarve, currently being linked by fast road. The strip, linking 11 million people, is the most populous zone in Iberia. While O Norte was seeking to develop the tourist potential of the Douro valley, he said it was also keen to market technical skills in what is Portugal's entrepreneurial heartland.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	FALLS:
Whitbread 'B' 930p (+37p)	Grand Mot 405p (-10p)
Takeda Chem 821p (+22p)	BAT 844p (-24p)
Thomson Corp 745p (+10p)	Booker 358p (-8p)
Cardiff Prop 160p (+10p)	Bespoke 528p (-5p)
Land Sec 553p (+11p)	Greenall Group 386p (-10p)
Dervent Holdings 423p (+10p)	United Biscuits 412p (-4p)
Blockdays 51p (+8p)	Margrow 996p (-13p)
Dart 82p (+7p)	BOC 681p (-17p)
Miel 171p (+10p)	Marks Spencer 345p (-8p)
BICC 378p (+7p)	Dominio 508p (-11p)
Standard Chart 731p (+8p)	
Courtauld Text 544p (+10p)	

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Irish Continental 160	
Oriental Smir Co's Writ 40	
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RIGHTS ISSUES

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United Drop n/p (171) 12 ...	

BRITISH FUNDS

1993	Low	Stock	Price	1992	Low	Stock	Price
122p	116p	114p	112p	110p	108p	106p	104p
100p	98p	96p	94p	92p	90p	88p	86p
84p	82p	80p	78p	76p	74p	72p	70p
58p	56p	54p	52p	50p	48p	46p	44p
32p	30p	28p	26p	24p	22p	20p	18p
12p	10p	8p	6p	4p	2p	0p	-2p

British Airways call 0171 261 261

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 19 1993

Aiming to keep Russia's new revolution from turning sour

In his second report from Moscow, Ross Tieman examines the experience and objectives of one of the biggest foreign investors to invade Russia

The goal of Tetra Laval Group in Russia is simple: to establish a dominant market position before its rivals wake up to the opportunities. In a country where industrial production is plummeting, inflation last year topped 2,000 per cent and the average wage is little more than £7 a month, the Swedish food processing and packaging equipment group has invested more than \$100 million. By the end of the decade, if all goes to plan, the figure will top \$1 billion.

Despite the difficult short-term outlook, Hans Rausing, the chairman and part-owner of the private Tetra Laval Group, insists this is not an act of charity. Rather, there is a happy coincidence between the moral responsibility he feels to help rebuild Russia's economy and feed its people, and the opportunity for profit. "Who comes first takes the best place," he says.

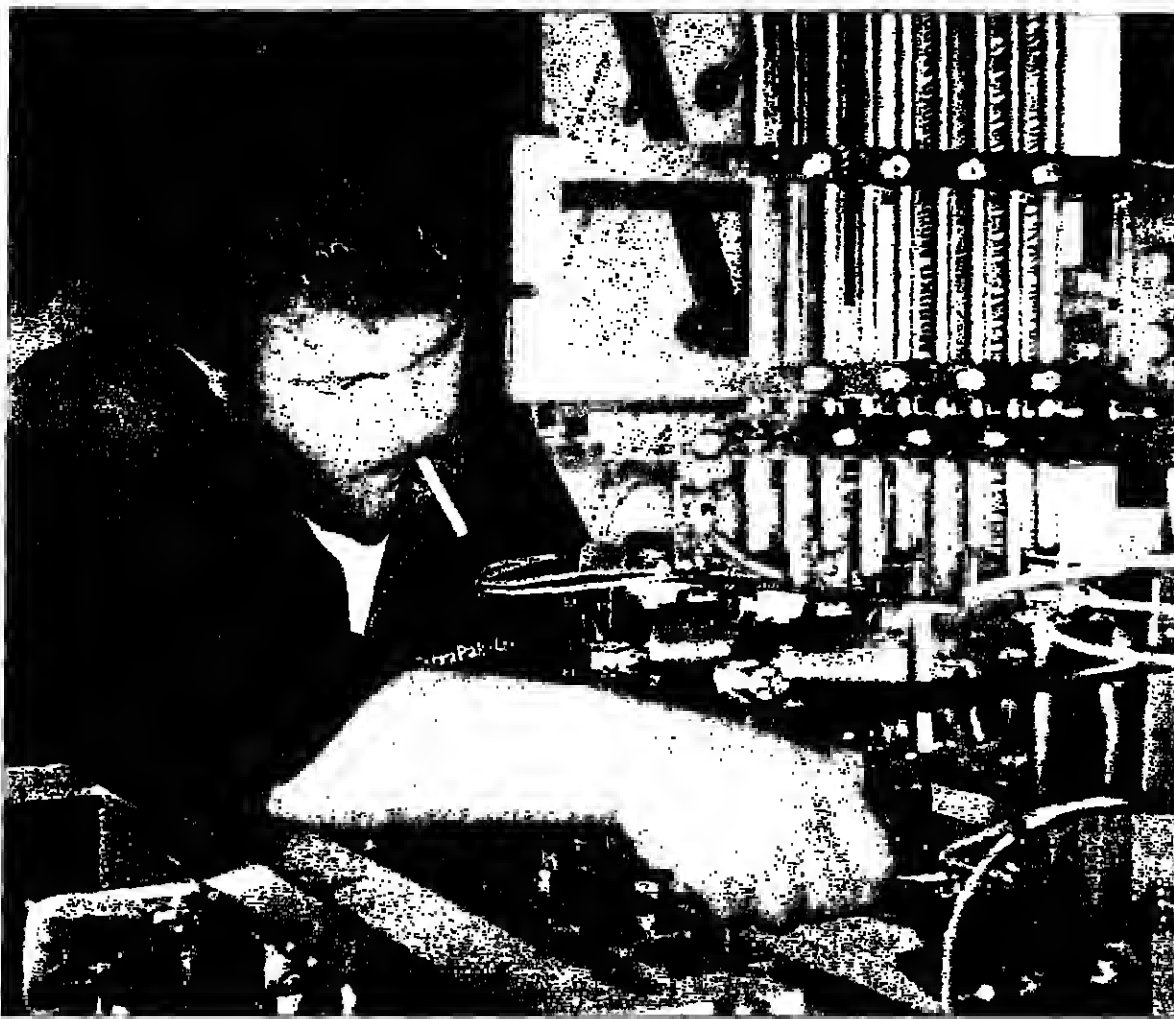
Profits are possible, from two sources. In the packaging business, Dr Rausing says, the "gross margins before depreciation are very high, and if you run with Russian-built machines you can make excellent profits". But a massive under-valuation of the rouble, he adds, offers a second opportunity. Parts of Russia's industrial base hitherto directed to making arms are sophisticated. So it makes sense to build low-technology machines in Russia for the domestic market and for export. Indeed, parts supplied from Russia could cut the cost of Tetra Laval's Swedish production, he says.

For Tetra Laval, a world leader in packaging with annual sales of more than \$9 billion and 34,000 employees, opportunities in the Confederation of Independent States are mouthwatering. Russia alone has a population of 149 million people, many of whom eat poorly because up to 40 per cent of the food produced there is wasted. Poor packaging and distribution are identified as the chief culprits.

Tetra Laval is no stranger to Russia. Group companies have been selling dairy equipment there since the last century and Dr Rausing has been involved in Russian deals since 1988.

But the breakdown of central planning caused a hiatus. Jonas Nachmannson, Tetra Laval's head of marketing intelligence, says: "Doing business here used to be simple. We had two contacts at ministries. The dairies told them what they wanted and we would negotiate the sale of equipment for 500 dairies to the ministries. We never even knew where the dairies were. That was classified information." After two years travelling in Russia trying to establish contacts and assess prospects, Mr Nachmannson reckons there are 1,600 dairies in the country.

Russia produces more milk per head of population than Britain. Yet milk is frequently unavailable in Moscow's shops, and when it does arrive, it is often sour. Frequently, Moscow's milk is reconstituted from EC powder. In winter, poor roads may make milk collection impossible. In summer, the absence of refrigeration means the



Production line: a Russian worker assembles a Tetra Pak machine in a factory near Moscow

milk is frequently sour when it reaches the dairy. And farmers would sooner pour milk away than cut their prices.

The Cherkizovo dairy, one of three serving Moscow, produces milk in bottles and Russian-made cartons, but sterilised milk in Tetra Pak boxes has proved most popular with customers because it does not go off, and the cartons are robust and do not leak. Need is one thing. Commercial demand is quite another. The challenge Tetra Laval faces is to produce milk processing equipment, packing machines and packing materials at a price the dairies can afford. To this end, the group has embarked on a series of joint ventures with Russian partners. Several were begun during Mikhail Gorbachev's era of perestroika, which has helped Tetra Laval steal a march on its rivals.

A joint venture with a former military plant on the outskirts of Moscow is assembling robust mechanical and hydraulically operated Tetra Pak machines chosen for their suitability for the Russian market. Kits of components are at present brought from Sweden: by the end of the year the company aims to source 70 per cent locally, rising to 100 per cent by mid-1994. That is an urgent imperative.

According to Jan Hildingstam, managing director of Tetra Laval's Russian operations, imported machines can no longer compete in the Russian market with equipment from subsidised state-owned manufacturers, even though technically superior, because of their high cost. But to get small volumes of components of the necessary quality Tetra Laval has to work closely with suppliers. The same is true of packaging materials. Tetra Laval has two joint ventures producing material for its machines. One, in Russia, also produces other types of packaging for

the food industry. But the second plant is at Kiev, in Ukraine. Wrangles between Russia and Ukraine over terms of trade have curtailed its ability to export to Russia and hastened planning for a third plant in St Petersburg.

Earlier this year, Tetra Laval stepped into the privatisation process and acquired a 40 per cent stake in Potok at Kaliningrad, Russia's largest manufacturer of milk pasteurising equipment. The company also has a modest stake in a juice processing and packaging plant at Lipetsk. In total, these ventures employ more than 2,000 people. But they are not universally welcomed.

Russia's growing environmental movement has singled out Tetra Pak for criticism because it is replacing reusable bottles with throw-away cartons, compounding problems of deforestation and pollution by papermills. Andrei Serikov, co-ordinator for 7,000 Greenpeace members in Russia, says: "Tetra Pak packages are not the solution. For milk it is better to produce glass bottles. Tetra Pak and similar companies want to develop Russia as a market because their products run into problems in the West."

The company emphatically denies the charge. Mr Nachmannson says reuse rates for glass bottles are actually very low, and producing and collecting them consumes a lot of energy. Tetra Laval is working with its paper supplier to cut emissions, he says. According to Tetra Pak, neither packaging method has a clear environmental advantage.

But the topic is clearly a sensitive one. The charges highlight both a deep-seated distrust of foreigners common in Russia and the difficulty of dealing with a population that is politically sophisticated but economically almost

illiterate. Russian enterprises are massively overmanned and managers have little grasp of market mechanisms, accountability or cost control.

To help, Tetra Laval has set up its own management institute in Sweden. But the gulf is wide. Hans Blücher, a trainer, recalls the Russian manager who remarked that Sweden's full shops were a sign of economic failure as "nobody can afford to buy the goods".

Tetra Laval's strategy has been to make a large hard-currency investment, and then to reinvest the rouble income in expansion. But operating in what Thomas Zachariasson, managing director of the Ukraine business, calls "the wild east" is a challenge requiring imaginative solutions. To help its managers in the CIS cope with hyper-inflation, Tetra Laval drew in accountants who had experienced it in Latin America. While recognising that dairies cannot obtain credits to buy its machines, it rents them out.

Even so, Mr Hildingstam notes a clutch of problems he just has to live with. There are difficulties with external trade, and a banking system that takes ten to 12 weeks to transfer funds. "It happens quite often that money just disappears," he says. "The purchasing power of the population has gone down tremendously; it's difficult to find companies that earn hard currency and can afford to buy from us."

However, he has no doubts about the logic of Tetra Laval's strategy. "It is cheaper, relatively speaking, to go in now instead of ten years' time," he says. But he knows that the option is not open to everyone. "We are a family owned company and only have a family to consult. If you had 25,000 shareholders you could not possibly do this kind of investment; you could not take the risk."

TEMPUS

Flying into foreign skies

GIVEN the traumas of the airline industry, it is hard not to be impressed by British Airways' ability to remain profitable. From an investment standpoint, even the dirty tricks affair could be seen as an example of how the group's executives play to win.

The question for shareholders is whether they should now invest in the group's attempt to steal a march on its loss-making competitors and build a route network in America and the Far East through its strategic alliances with USAir and Qantas. History is littered with alliances that ended in bitter failure and astounding losses. The most notorious example is Midland Bank's investment in Crocker National in California a decade ago. Like Midland, BA has no management control over its investments, but

unlike the bank it has taken some precautions. It has bought preference stock in USAir, which has a fixed yield for the group to fall back on if the alliance breaks up. The investment in ordinary shares in Qantas could be more problematic, especially as there are fewer obvious immediate gains like the code-sharing with USAir.

The group has set itself other demanding targets, notably its target of cutting another £150 million from costs this year. BA has delivered in the past and should be given the benefit of the doubt. The last thing that Sir Colin Marshall and his colleagues need now, however, is a time-consuming legal dispute with Virgin Atlantic. The shares, at an ex-rights price of 286p, may mark time until the group turns some of its promises into reality.

Hanson

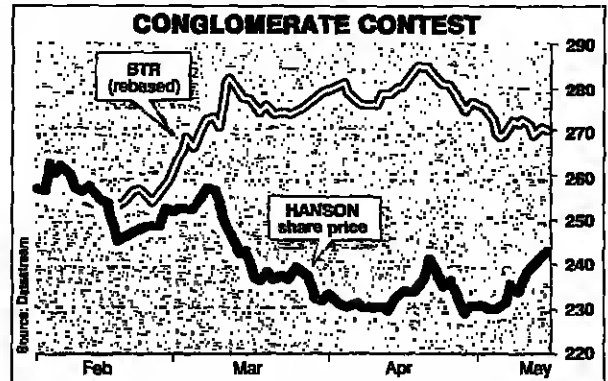
THE new accounting standards have gone a long way to remove the fog from Hanson. In the latest set of interim figures, it can now be seen that profits would have fallen by 4 per cent had it not been for three small but profitable disposals.

In the past, investors forgave Hanson its reluctance to divulge information because it habitually turned in strong earnings and dividend growth. A group that reports an unchanged dividend and a 9 per cent fall in earnings per share is not the Hanson of old, however understandable the problems at Peabody, Beazer and ARC may be. The group says that large acquisitions will continue to be part of its strategy but the comment lacks conviction. Investors in Britain and

America have already chased share prices to ambitious levels, particularly in the basic industries in which Hanson has always specialised.

On a yield and earnings basis Hanson stands at a substantial discount to BTR, its long-time rival. It looks doubtful that it will close the gap in the short term. After

all, Hanson still has the luxury of £5.5 billion of past provisions, 24 per cent higher than its entire net worth, even though it used almost £636 million of those provisions in the last six months. Until the management show renewed underlying momentum, the market is likely to view such details sceptically.



Marks & Spencer

IF Marks & Spencer can produce this kind of result in a recession, its prospects when a consumer upturn finally arrives must be excellent. Some remain sceptical. M&S is an attractive defensive stock, they say, but its appeal lies in its ability to control costs rather than generate sales. The group certainly manages its costs well. The portfolio of freehold stores and the high proportion of part-time staff have kept costs lower than its competitors.

The verdict on the group's sales potential is unduly harsh. Last autumn's "outstanding value" campaign showed the group was perfectly capable of being more aggressive on price. Sales did not rocket, but they enabled M&S to gain market share. There is no reason to suppose these customers will suddenly desert the group when the economy picks up. On the contrary, growth in M&S's up-market food business may recapture more of its previously lost market share.

On a prospective p/e ratio of more than 19, much of this good news is already in the price. From this high base the performance of the shares, not unlike the products, will be solid, not scintillating.

BOC

TUCKED away in the notes to BOC's interim figures was the news that the group has started putting acquired intangible assets on its balance sheet. The effect so far has been minimal. For Brevibloc, the injectible heart beat controller acquired in January, an intangible asset value of £47.9 million has been included. This will be depreciated over the life of its 11-year patent, although that pales into insignificance against the £232 million rise in tangible assets due to the fall in sterling.

The new accounting policy could become more significant as time passes. The City was prepared for a sharp fall in sales of Forane, BOC's main anaesthetic which came off patent in January, but it was upset at the slow roll-out of Suprane, its successor. BOC is keen to find acquisitions to plug the gap, and the new accounting treatment helps it take on large chunks of goodwill without high gearing.

Allied-Lyons

THE problem with trying to line up three ducks in a row, as Allied-Lyons has apparently tried to do by reporting preliminary figures, the purchase of a French spirits

and wine distributor and a convertible bond issue on the same day, is that the silly birds tend to waddle off in different directions. The acquisition came seven hours after the figures: the bond issue could come today. The lack of a simultaneous entrance did the company's reputation for efficiency few favours, and distracted attention from impressive final results.

Allied may not need £200 million cash more than any other drinks group, since debt and interest cover are both running in the right direction. But it would be useful to fund gradual expansion.

LWT

THE success of the merger of Central and Anglia Television's sales forces has prompted LWT and Yorkshire-Tyne Tees to do the same in order to boost their share of advertising revenue.

Although Yorkshire's in-house sales team is clearly in need of LWT's help, this latest venture may not succeed as well as its forerunner. Unlike Central and Anglia, the regions are not contiguous and have very different demographic profiles.

LWT, which now owns 19 per cent of Yorkshire, will have to work hard to justify the cost of the investment.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Confessions of a Nadir player

BARELY allowing the engine jays to cool on a north Cyprus runway, one of the main players in the Polly Peck farrago has broken cover and offered his version of the story. A scarcely credible letter received by *The Times* from the solicitor of Jason Davies, last heard of in Geneva and one of Asil Nadir's financial lieutenants, offers to spill the beans in an "exclusive" interview, in return for £15,000 plus unspecified legal fees. Davies's employment prospects have been severely hampered by the publicity. Rodney Hytton-Potts, his adviser, says in the letter: Hytton-Potts was more expansive over the telephone. "Jason's position is that because of this problem and the publicity, he's been unemployed for some time, and he's really hard up." The BBC, he claims, are "mad keen" for the interview, but will only pay a nominal amount. In the "very wide-ranging story" promised by his client, Davies, it is claimed, is prepared to give details of wild sex parties funded by MPs, of an offer to Nadir of a knighthood in return for donations to Conservative party funds, and of the legal shenanigans surrounding the alleged attempted bribery of a senior judge. The legal fees, expected to amount to perhaps £5,000, would go to Hytton-Potts, who would accompany the writer to the unnamed European country where Davies resides.

MICHAEL Jackman was in playful mood as he chaired a briefing on Allied-Lyons' annual results. The date — May 18 — was, he said, the anniversary of the accession of Napoleon as Emperor, the birthdays of Bertrand Russell and Perry Como — and the opening of The Sound of Music. His advisers had suggested that he and the rest of the board might care to dress up as nuns to commemorate this last — "but my colleagues said they would prefer to save that for the weekend".

Pearl of a place

OYSTER fans will be dismayed to learn that Bentley's, that culinary haunt under the Legal & General building on Queen Victoria Street, has passed into liquidation. The good news is that it — and its sister on Swallow Street — are



"British Airways cash call, sir?"

still open for business. Confused? Well, it seems that Bodington, the pubs, hotels and healthcare group that used to include Bentley's and still owns the lease, has stepped back in to keep Bentley's afloat while the financial situation is clarified — "99 per cent of the value is in the name," says Giles Whitmore, the liquidator. He is hopeful that a car enthusiast might step in with an offer. The troubled restaurant should not be confused with Bill Bentley's of Old Broad Street, which appeared to be thriving yesterday.

Flying the nest

NEARLY a year after the accountants went in at Canary Wharf, word has surfaced about the team led by Michael Dennis, who helped put the project together. Dennis, who masterminded the building of the Docklands skyscraper, is doing part-time work for Olympia & York in America. Peter Dale, the former transport specialist, is still chairman of River Bus, the Thames commuter service. Chuck Young, former marketing director, is working for a merchant bank and a reinsurer, and Bob Speirs, one of only two directors not fired en masse in October, joins the Royal Bank of Scotland as finance director in July. The source of it all is Robert KPMG Pear Marwick to lead a team advising on major capital projects.

JON ASHWORTH

Providing capital for small-scale entrepreneurs

From Mr Robert Skidelsky and Mr Liam Halligan
Sir, Janet Bush (May 13) and the financial letter of May 18 are correct to point out the dangers of a borrowing squeeze on small firms during an upswing, particularly since a major source of illiquidity comes from low house prices depressing the collateral of many small-scale entrepreneurs. The government cannot expect commercial banks to ignore the risks or high costs of lending in this sector. The problem is not one of finance for business start-up; what is required is capital allowing the best of our small firms to grow sufficiently to be listed on the Stock Exchange. Small enterprises, the source

of much employment and innovation, remain starved of venture capital: resulting financial bottlenecks often force firms to be wound-up unnecessarily.

While loan guarantees lack the permanence required to affect significantly bankers' attitudes towards small firms, initiatives along the lines of Germany's *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau* could help. A long-term loan institution, it buys funds wholesale on world capital markets, lending to small firms, via the banks, at 1/2 per cent above the base rate.

With the government as the sole shareholder, it pays no dividends. The KfW has proved highly cost effective and has fostered bank owner-

ship of newly listed equities. Should the United Securities Market prove irrevocable, we need institutional reform along these lines, rather than short-term government guarantees. Our national fixation on bricks and mortar is unhealthy.

Linking an entrepreneur's ability to borrow solely to the market value of the family home not only hinders the economy's emergence from slump, but encourages over-spending during recovery, and subsequent indebtedness. Yours faithfully,

ROBERT SKIDELSKY and LIAM HALLIGAN, The Social Market Foundation, 20 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

Motor insurance

From Mr A.M. Baker
Sir, If Mr Hadfield's argument on motor insurance (May 7) were a motor car it would fail its MOT as being unworthy. Among the points he is overlooking are: Motor insurance remains fiercely competitive and if any motor insurer increases premiums too high or offers poor customer service there are over a hundred others who will compete for the business. Does Mr Hadfield seriously want the government to put a stop to this?

Secondly, even Mr Micawber managed to grasp the fact that Mr Hadfield cannot grasp that no one (whether they be a commercial organisation or an individual) can survive indefinitely with £1.30 being paid out of every £1 of premium coming in. The result would be bankruptcy and

this would hardly be in the interests of policyholders. Premiums have had to rise, but this has certainly not been the only action taken by companies. The group rating structure has recently been revised to allow for more flexibility in the rating of individual vehicles, an evaluation scheme for vehicle security devices has been launched, a major initiative to stamp out insurance fraud is proving very successful and many insurers have been revising their operations to improve efficiency.

Insurance is very closely supervised by the Department of Trade and Industry, but when it comes to underwriting decisions the DTI, quite rightly, leaves insurers and commercial competition to decide premium levels.

I have to acknowledge that there is one small part of Mr Hadfield's letter that is correct.

Insurers cannot always accurately predict the future. The once-in-300-year hurricane or the 50 per cent jump in crime were difficult to predict, although with hindsight some commentators may believe otherwise. If Mr Hadfield has a crystal ball or is able to offer some form of prediction service I'm sure there will be many insurers (not to mention racing tipsters) who will want to have a word with him.

Surely, Mr Hadfield's concern on behalf of the insurance-buying public couldn't be motivated by the pressure his members are facing from insurers determined to get better value for money on repair costs and stamp out "the insurance job"?

Yours faithfully, TONY BAKER (Manager, Public Affairs), Association of British Insurers, 51 Gresham Street, EC2.

Council tax and charity workers

From Mr Walter Webster
Sir, The position, regarding council tax, of employees of charities, who for the better performance of their duties, are required by their contracts to live on the premises where they work (eg. clergymen, wardens and caretakers) requires clarification.

Under the former rating system, employers could pay the local authority rates without the employee having to pay tax on the benefit.

The community charge, which followed the rating system, was regarded as personal charge and, as such, any reimbursement to the occupier by the charity was regarded as taxable income.


The council tax now in operation is a mixture of the two former systems. Clarification is needed as to the tax

position of the occupant, if the charity itself decides to pay the council tax.

Would it not be equitable if the payment of the council tax by the charity were to be regarded as a non-taxable benefit, where earnings did not exceed £8,500 a year? There are already a number of tax benefits so listed by the Inland Revenue and this proposal should be added to that list.

Yours sincerely, WALTER WEBSTER (Chartered Accountant), 3 Park Lane, Kirkcaldy, York.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.



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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Mid	Offer	% Yld	Mid	Offer	% Yld
European Gtn	104.01	116.49	+ 0.37	1.31	1.31	0.00
Tw Growth	74.28	78.75	+ 0.02	2.97	2.97	0.00
High Income	91.90	96.62	+ 0.18	4.58	4.58	0.00
Japanese Gtn	210.00	223.96	+ 3.49	4.00	4.00	0.00
PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGER						
World Income	100.00	100.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ECAN S&L, Dealine: 8000 249443						
International	100.00	110.00	+ 1.10	0.89	0.89	0.00
Tw Growth	74.28	78.75	+ 0.02	2.97	2.97	0.00
Core Gdn	104.01	113.50	+ 0.19	6.73	6.73	0.00
UNIT CAPITAL & FINANCE						
General Growth	97.82	104.00	+ 0.20	2.24	2.24	0.00
Global Tech	117.20	136.69	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Income Growth	100.00	100.00	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tw Growth	74.28	78.75	+ 0.02	2.97	2.97	0.00
Japan Growth	80.04	85.11	+ 0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
Overseas Gdn	73.05	77.07	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smaller Cos	71.71	77.17	+ 0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Ops	101.40	109.20	+ 0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sp Spec Sits	80.56	90.54	+ 0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
20/66	20.66	20.66	+ 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FOR SALE	30/10/20	24/05/20
PROPERTY UNIT TRUST		
1 Southern Lane Sp, Middleham, Nth		
ME24 1TU, ME24 1ATWS	72.5	
Estimate	72.5	95.80
Estimating date	28.08	03.10
General	56.66	63.70
Interest	16.20	0.59
Gib Units	24.97	25.68
Income	3.52	3.71
Income Gib	64.62	67.97
Unpaid	41.01	43.63
Q1/06	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2006	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2007	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2008	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2009	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2010	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2011	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2012	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2013	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2014	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2015	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2016	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2017	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2018	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2019	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2020	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2021	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2022	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2023	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2024	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2025	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2026	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2027	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2028	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2029	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2030	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2031	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2032	41.01	43.63
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Unpaid 2301	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2302	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2303	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2304	41.01	43.63
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Unpaid 2306	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2307	41.01	43.63
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Unpaid 2309	41.01	43.63
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Unpaid 2320	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2321	41.01	43.63
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Unpaid 2324	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2325	41.01	43.63
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Unpaid 2331	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2332	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2333	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2334	41.01	43.63
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Unpaid 2336	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2337	41.01	43.63
Unpaid 2338	41.01	43.63

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191 St Vincent St Glasgow G2 5JH 0141 244 2444				
UK equity	208.60	377.70	+ 2.85	2.56
US equity	274.60	490.60	+ 1.00	2.56
European	319.50	530.00	+ 0.10	2.25
North American	240.50	255.90	+ 3.20	0.35
Income Plus	63.00	63.00	+ 0.00	0.00
UK Spec Stk	66.36	70.60	+ 0.11	2.22

SOUTHSHIELD PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MEMBERSHIP LTD 19 St Andrew St Edinburgh EH2 2TA 011 538 2344				
UK equity	24.00	24.00	+ 0.91	2.81
int'l Growth Acc	28.41	30.49	+ 0.13	1.19
US equity	32.00	32.40	+ 0.19	3.80
European	32.00	32.40	+ 0.19	3.80
North America	32.00	32.40	+ 0.19	3.80
Income Plus	63.00	63.00	+ 0.00	0.00

Woolwich Unit Trust Managers 2 White Oak Square, Smeley BR8 7AG 0181 606 1111				
UK equity	24.00	24.00	+ 0.91	2.81
int'l Growth Acc	28.41	30.49	+ 0.13	1.19
US equity	32.00	32.40	+ 0.19	3.80
European	32.00	32.40	+ 0.19	3.80
North America	32.00	32.40	+ 0.19	3.80
Income Plus	63.00	63.00	+ 0.00	0.00

WHITTINGDALE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 100 Victoria Road, London EC2V 5SE 0171 606 3132				
UK equity	52.60	52.60	+ 0.01	5.40
US equity	52.60	52.60	+ 0.01	5.40
int'l Growth Acc	52.60	52.60	+ 0.01	5.40
European	52.60	52.60	+ 0.01	5.40
North America	52.60	52.60	+ 0.01	5.40
Income Plus	52.60	52.60	+ 0.01	5.40

Woolwich Unit Trust Managers 2 White Oak Square, Smeley BR8 7AG 0181 606 1111				
UK equity	24.00	24.00	+ 0.91	2.81
int'l Growth Acc	28.41	30.49	+ 0.13	1.19
US equity	32.00	32.40	+ 0.19	3.80
European	32.00	32.40	+ 0.19	3.80
North America	32.00	32.40	+ 0.19	3.80
Income Plus	63.00	63.00	+ 0.00	0.00

SG TOUCHÉ REMINANT	881 288 4660	
31 Peachtree Avenue, London	Blackburn Park	66.50 70.74 - 0.12 2.69
3224 WAPA, 871 410 427		
American Gilt	77.89	81.50 + 0.31 ...
Bond Spot Index	44.31	46.50 + 0.03 ...
-de AC	46.31	46.50 + 0.03 ...
Per East Ops	32.08	34.51 + 0.51 ...
-de AC	32.08	35.46 + 0.53 ...

Source: Envestra
 * Yield expressed as CAGR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data.

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 80.2

(May 5 range 80.0-80.2).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for May 18	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.7813-2.7904	2.7896	2.7904	11-16d
Brussels	50.85-51.11	51.03-51.11	11-16d	4-6-9d
Copenhagen	9.50-9.54	9.53	9.550	11-16d
Dublin	1.0170-1.0199	1.0170	1.0199	11-16d
Frankfurt	2.4795-2.4868	2.4829	2.4867	11-16d
Geneva	2.4795-2.4868	2.4829	2.4867	11-16d
Madrid	188.77-189.07	188.77	189.07	11-16d
Milan	226.40-227.370	226.50	227.00	11-16d

New York	52.70-53.20	93.880-1.8501	0.42-0.15pr	0.45-0.27pr
London	52.70-53.20	93.880-1.8501	0.42-0.15pr	0.45-0.27pr
Osaka	10.496-10.346	93.880-1.8501	0.42-0.15pr	0.45-0.27pr
Tokyo	6.3380-6.3840	93.880-1.8501	0.42-0.15pr	0.45-0.27pr
Singapore	11.200-11.250	93.880-1.8501	0.42-0.15pr	0.45-0.27pr
5 tchukom	170.46-170.92	93.880-1.8501	0.42-0.15pr	0.45-0.27pr
Penang	2.24-2.48	93.880-1.8501	0.42-0.15pr	0.45-0.27pr
Zurich	17.548-17.562	93.880-1.8501	0.42-0.15pr	0.45-0.27pr

Source: Exel

Premium + pr. Discount - ds

OTHER STERLING		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Argentina peso*	1.5271-1.5207	Australia	1.4463-1.4473

Bahrain dirham	0.571-0.583	Adana	11.741-12.121
Brazil cruzeiro	57125-57127.1	Algeria (Cont.)	2.720-2.725
Cyprus pound	0.735-0.74	Canada	1.270-1.275
French franc	8.484-8.489	Denmark	6.233-6.243
Greece drachma	331.75-338.75	Germany	5.8775-6.483
Hong Kong dollar	11.8107-11.8200	Germany	1.6241-1.625
Indian rupee	0.45-0.46	Hong Kong	7.728-7.729
Indonesian dollar	0.450-0.46	Ireland	5.0925-5.094
Malaysia ringgit	3.9257-3.9299	Italy	4.681-4.685.0
Mexico	0.72-0.82	Japan	16.517-16.52
New Zealand dollar	2.050-2.055	Malaysia	2.5692-2.5702
Saudi Arabian riyal	5.677-5.803	Netherlands	1.8215-1.8225
Singapore dollar	2.4687-2.4730	Portugal	6.877-6.887
		Portugal	1.135-1.135.0

5 Africa rand (com)	4.8562-4.8748	Singapore	1.6157-1.6167
UAE dirham	5.5655-5.5845	Spain	123.65-123.80
Banque Bank GTS - Lloyds Bank		Sweden	7.3567-7.3601
		Switzerland	1.4778-1.4785

MONEY RATES (%)	
Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6	Finance Hse 0.5
Discount Market Lanes: Over/night high	Low 5%
Treasury Bills (Oct/Dec)	1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%
Prime Bank Bills (Oct/Dec)	1 mth 5% 3 mth 5% 6 mth 5% 12 mth 5%

Sterling Finance	6 ⁰ -5 ¹⁰	6 ⁰ -6 ⁰	6 ⁰ -6 ⁰	6 ⁰ -6 ⁰
Intermediate	6 ⁰ -5 ¹⁰	6 ⁰ -6 ⁰	6 ⁰ -6 ⁰	6 ⁰ -6 ⁰
Overnight: open 6 ⁰ , close 5 ¹⁰		6 ⁰ -6 ⁰	6 ⁰ -6 ⁰	6 ⁰ -6 ⁰
Local Authority Depos:	5 ¹⁰ -5 ¹⁰	n/a	6 ⁰ -	6 ⁰ -
Sterling CDs:	5 ¹⁰ -5 ¹⁰	6 ⁰ -5 ¹⁰	6 ⁰ -	6 ⁰ -
Dollar CDs:	1 10-3 07	n/a	6 ⁰ -5 ¹⁰	6 ⁰ -5 ¹⁰
Bullfinch Society CDs:	6 ⁰ -5 ¹⁰	3 17-3 14	3 27-3 24	3 56-3 53
		6 ⁰ -5 ¹⁰	6 ⁰ -5 ¹⁰	6 ⁰ -6 ⁰

ECGD's Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up date: April 30, 1950, Agreed rates May 26, 1951 to June 22, 1952. Schemes II & III: 7.20%. Reference rate April 1, 1950 to April 30, 1953: Scheme IV & V 6.01%.

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	3 1/2-3	3 1/2-3	3 1/2-3	3 1/2-3	3 1/2-3
Deutsche Mark:	7 7/8-7 7/8	7 7/8-7 7/8	7 7/8-7 7/8	7 7/8-7 7/8	7 7/8-7 7/8
French Franc:	8 1/2-8	7 7/8-7 7/8	7 7/8-7 7/8	7 7/8-7 7/8	7 7/8-7 7/8
Swiss Franc:	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2
Yen:	3 1/2-3	3 1/2-3	3 1/2-3	3 1/2-3	3 1/2-3

Gold:	310.00
Silver:	16.00
Palladium:	1,200.00
Platinum:	1,000.00
Rhodium:	1,500.00
Rosin:	1,000.00
Solignum:	1,000.00
Vanadium:	1,000.00
Zinc:	1,000.00

Unowned: Open \$365.95-368.40 Close: \$371.00-372.10 High: \$371.60-372.10
 Low: \$364.29-364.85 Krugerrand: \$371.00-373.00 (\$241.75-243.50)
 Sovereigns: Old \$86.00-88.00 (\$54.00-56.00) New \$86.00-88.00 (\$54.00-56.00)
 Platinum: \$382.25 (\$250.35) Silver: \$4.53 (\$2.96) Palladium: \$120.10 (\$78.65)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall gain or loss. Follow the daily dividend figures. If it matches you have won. On the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	M&P	Property	
2	Gr Portland	Insurance	
3	Legal & Gen	Insurance	
4	Bilton	Property	
5	Wickes	Industrial	
6	Minicap	Business Serv	
7	Nichols (JN)	Food	
8	SA Breweries	Breweries	
9	Kingfisher	Draperies	
10	Abbey	Building, Rds	
11	Yorkshire TV	Leisure	
12	Dart	Business Serv	
13	Elandrand	Mining	
14	Electronics	Electrical	
15	Laser-Son	Electrical	
16	Leachap	Business Serv	
17	Sevens	Industrial	
18	Acme & Hutch	Food	
19	BICC	Electrical	
20	Wolsey	Industrial	
21	Health C	Insurance	
22	Weston	Building, Rds	
23	Br Land	Property	
24	Bookings	Breweries	
25	Blockage	Building, Rds	
26	Telegraph	Newspaper, Pub	
27	Stand Chart	Bank, Disc	
28	Stena Corp	Electrical	
29	Puffes	Food	
30	Gowings	Motor, Air	
31	Roy Bk Soc	Bank, Disc	
32	BET Ord	Business Serv	
33	Barclays	Bank, Disc	
34	Security Serv	Industrial	
35	Farnell Elec	Electrical	
36	Ortel	Insurance	
37	Jardine Sch	Fin Trusts	
38	NIM Group	Paper, Print	
39	Hammerman	Property	
40	Westland	Motor, Air	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Portfolio Plus

The winner of yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000 was Mr J Mollit of Uleyby, South Humberdale.

High Low Company Price % Chg % P/E

No	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
1	Alloy Steel	411	+1.13	5.15
2	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
3	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
4	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
5	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
6	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
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37	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
38	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
39	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
40	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
1	Alloy Steel	411	+1.13	5.15
2	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
3	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
4	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
5	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
6	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
7	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
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37	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
38	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
39	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
40	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15

BREWERS

No	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
1	Alloy Steel	411	+1.13	5.15
2	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
3	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
4	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
5	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
6	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
7	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
8	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
9	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
10	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
11	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
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37	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
38	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
39	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
40	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15

BUILDING, ROADS

No	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
1	Alloy Steel	411	+1.13	5.15
2	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
3	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
4	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
5	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
6	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
7	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
8	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
9	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
10	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
11	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
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13	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
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39	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
40	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15

Prices slip towards close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 10. Dealings end May 21. Contango day May 24. Settlement day June 1. Share prices are based on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is re-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1993 High Low Company Price % Chg % P/E

No	Company	Price	% Chg	% P/E
1	Alloy Steel	411	+1.13	5.15
2	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
3	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
4	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
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38	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
39	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15
40	Alloy Steel	235	+0.43	5.15

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRICITY									
389	East Illinois	440	-1.1	171	4.9	85	192	15	11.8
390	Eastman	304	-0.3	171	4.9	85	192	15	11.8
391	Eastman	304	-0.3	171	4.9	85	192	15	11.8
392	Eastman	304	-0.3	171	4.9	85	192	15	11.8
393	Eastman	304	-0.3	171	4.9	85	192	15	11.8
394	Eastman	304	-0.3	171	4.9	85	192	15	11.8
395	Eastman	304	-0.3	171	4.9	85	192	15	11.8
396	Eastman	304	-0.3	171	4.9	85	192	15	11.8
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FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Creative way to go to market

Lack of flexibility could hinder Whitehall's love affair with competition, writes Derek Harris

Whitehall's market testing exercise, which is all about opening up the work of government departments to private sector competition — is due to reach the end of its lengthy first phase in the autumn. The idea was that, by then, bids would have been lodged for some £1.5 billion worth of departmental work. These bids would be submitted by in-house teams as well as the private sector.

Nearly half the work involves information technology and computer services. The bulk of preparatory work on market testing has been going on for 18 months. There are 350 departmental activities involved and 44,000 Civil Service jobs. Few of the private sector companies bidding expect everything to have been sorted out by the autumn.

That is the least of the market testing troubles, ac-

According to Charles Cox, the director of the public service division at Hoskyns Group, one of the largest suppliers of computer services in the United Kingdom. Mr Cox has "worries and frustrations" about market testing.

Hoskyns is pitching hard for the Whitehall contracts but has plenty of competition from companies such as France's Sema, which has joined up with British Aerospace to exploit the defence market. America's Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) and from Capita Group which has specialised in the local government IT market. Istel, the former computer arm of British Leyland and now part of AT&T, is another player.

Hoskyns believes market testing could double the size of the IT outsourcing market in the UK from its present £600 million. Mr Cox says much of the Whitehall IT



Stepping into Whitehall: Charles Cox, director of public service division of Hoskyns

work could go to the private sector, but he is anxious about the markedly different "cultures" of the public and private sectors. He also worries that contracts, which would normally run for at least five years and probably for seven or even ten years, could easily face a mid-life crisis because of lack of flexibility.

The different approaches of the private and public sectors have been underlined by the way service requirements are specified for prospective contractors. "Too often this is based on the current provision. That suppresses the scope for innovation and improvement while risking escalating

inefficiency," Mr Cox says. Internal bids for contracts, just as much as outside ones, are supposed to demonstrate an improvement on a current internal system. Mr Cox points out: "Government departments are accustomed to a procurement approach — one specification, everybody puts in a bid and the prices are compared. It may create a level playing field, but it absolutely kills any chance of something innovative being done."

Hoskyns, like some other contenders, has come up with a way of tackling inflexible specification. This is to put in two bids, one based on the specification and another sug-

gesting a more innovative approach, allowing scope to meet future needs.

Here are the seeds of mid-life crisis for contracts, he believes. After a few years, a government department could find that its needs had radically altered. But the service provider would not be breaking the terms of the contract if rigidly set terms were followed even though that would in the new circumstances provide an inadequate, inefficient service.

"A number of large outsourcing contracts in the United States have failed recently for these reasons. If failures do occur here it will be in their mid-term."

Make the most of a moving experience

A facilities management team, built up over five years by Coopers & Lybrand, Britain's biggest firm of accountants and management consultants, was a key part of a project group which has just completed Britain's biggest office move of recent years.

More than 5,500 people were moved over five months to concentrate London staff in three main locations. "It was like moving a small army with all its baggage, yet disruption had to be kept to a minimum," Colin Sully, one of five senior facilities managers, says.

C&L was able to mount its own in-house project management team because, in addition to its facilities managers, it has a corps of consultants which advises outside clients on construction projects, surveying and allied matters.

It took 14 months to complete the project from inception. There were 130 separate moves at weekends starting in August last year. The busiest weekend move saw 450 people moved from nine locations into four different buildings. Yet throughout the moves, 95 per cent of personnel were operational by 10am on the Monday morning.

More than 3,500 PCs and 1,000 network printers had to be moved, with 40 per cent of furniture also relocated.

Embankment Place, behind Charing Cross station, called for the fitting out of 350,000 sq ft of newly-completed offices, meeting rooms and catering areas. This fit-out, creating accommodation for 3,200 people, cost £14.4 million excluding furniture cost and fees. Some 200,000 sq ft of occupied office space at Plumtree Court and St Andrew's House was refurbished.

At Embankment Place, it

Army-style logistics are needed when 5,500 staff switch offices

There are additional checkpoints around the buildings so the location of an individual can be pinpointed. The possibility of tagging equipment is being looked at. It would be particularly useful to keep an up-to-date log of laptop computers travelling out of and into the building.

In tandem with the relocations — at one time C&L had more than a dozen different buildings in use — there was a reassessment of business policies and work practices. This has led to enhanced efficiency and reduced overheads. There are some obvious savings. Fewer buildings

means a reduced need for reception staff. Servicing needs are more streamlined. The number of maintenance contracts is already being whittled down and it would now be a practical possibility to have a single contract for the London buildings, according to Mr Sully.

Auditors and consultants spend considerable periods outside the office so some work stations are shared by up to six people. What has also reduced costs and increased efficiency is use of open plan offices. All London workstations are now on a single communication network. Only partners get dedicated offices.

The open plan approach has been broadly welcomed because it seems to have made it easier to communicate and secure easy access to colleagues. Creating more logical work clusters has also helped. Auditors, consultants with tax and other specialists can for example have a common interest if they deal with various aspects of a particular industrial sector. Being able readily to discuss issues is especially valuable.

DEREK HARRIS



MORE than half the companies which turn to facilities management in the hope of gaining strategic advantages report cost savings, according to a new survey.

The second annual survey conducted into facilities management by the Computer Management Group (CMG) found that one in three of bigger British companies use outsourcing, up from 25 per cent last year. Only 15 per cent reported cost increases after a switch to outsourcing through facilities manage-

Shrink those costs

ment. Nearly one-third reported no change and 56 per cent recorded cost savings.

Three-quarters of the organisations surveyed — in both public and private sectors — said it was a gain to be able to concentrate on core business. Nearly half said facilities management meant they had greater financial control of their operations.

A SPECIAL section at the Premises and Facilities Management Exhibition, to be held at Olympia, London, on June 16 and 17, will demonstrate what your office might look like going into the 21st century.

A number of leading suppliers are organising the display, which will demonstrate techniques likely to be in common

use by the end of this decade. One section will show how companies can cope with the problem of repetitive strain injury (RSI), eye-testing in relation to VDU usage and the new legal responsibilities.

There will also be special emphasis on outsourcing services in the public sector. This will cover central government departments, local author-

ties and the health service with its emerging trusts structure.

The exhibition will be the biggest so far, with more than 160 stands. Among the systems highlighted are security, disaster recovery, cashless vending and tagging of equipment. Magnet Exhibitions is organising the event, which is supported by the Association of Facilities Managers and the Institute of Facilities Management. A conference will run in conjunction with the exhibition.

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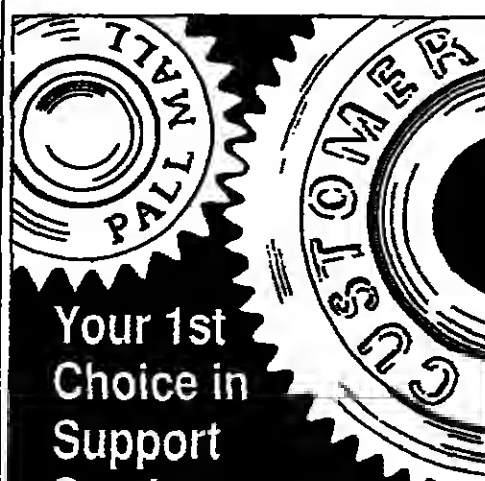
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THE TIMES FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Will appear in 1993 on the following dates:

- Wednesday 16th June 1993
- Wednesday 21st July 1993
- Wednesday 18th August 1993
- Wednesday 21st September 1993
- Wednesday 20th October 1993
- Wednesday 17th November 1993

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THEATRE page 34
Alan Bates plays a
tyrannical actor in a sour
comedy by the Austrian
Thomas Bernhard

ARTS

CONCERTS page 35

James Galway, soloist
with a small American
orchestra, shows he has
lost none of his charm



Hollywood's steely lady

Demi Moore found 45 minutes in a hectic round of interviews to talk to Matt Wolf — about the hazards of being interviewed

It is teatime on Monday afternoon, and the Demi Moore roadshow is running late. Not, mind you, that the bankable young star of *Indecent Proposal* is to blame. As the phalanx of publicists, studio folk and hangers-on are quick to point out, she is "a real pro, a great lady, a very savvy woman".

Favvy indeed, since an hour facing up to 60 Fleet Street veterans is nobody's idea of a pleasant afternoon. "Even presidents don't give a press conference that long," cracks super-publicist Pat Kingsley, in town for the occasion.

Nor, as it turns out, does Moore: arriving 25 minutes late — the apparent explanation is that the lights blew during an earlier TV interview, thereby throwing off an entire day of appointments — she spends another 25 fielding queries amid a whirl of tape-recorders. How does she feel about husband Bruce Willis's endless vilification by the press? Comes the *sotto voce* reply: "It probably affects you more than me." Undoubtedly.

Moore certainly does her best to guard against too many such moments. Journalists granted "one on one" interviews must sign a "consent agreement" agreeing not to probe into personal matters. One wonders what is considered personal: is it safe to ask when she arrived in England?

A request for a picture is met with a list of photographers whom Moore deems suitable: all command fees proportional to an actress whose new film took £1.57 million in its opening weekend in Britain. Eventually conceding that such demands are unrealistic, Moore poses graciously for a *Times* photographer, but is at pains to point out afterwards why such control must remain an essential component of the marketing of Moore.

"The most difficult thing is realising the areas in which there are precedents about how things work," says the 30-year-old actress from New Mexico. "The newspaper will not give me the same space if I don't let them have a photograph I cannot control. But then again, I'm now subject to somebody else's choice — and yet it's about me, and of me. To me, it doesn't seem to be right. OK, you give in this time and keep your fingers crossed that they use a good one and not a bad one."

But surely anyone who has posed for those two much-discussed *Vanity Fair* magazine covers — one a naked portrait when she was heavily pregnant, the other as a human painting — knows that working the press is a two-way street. "Obviously you learn a little bit more as you go along about how

it can work to your advantage. The *Vanity Fair* case was probably the most successful of that kind of endeavour: it exposed something about who I am that I don't think I could have communicated if I did hundreds and hundreds of interviews. It represented a playful part of my personality, a part able to have self-mockery, and it showed somebody that was in charge of their life."

A perfect symbiosis, then, of the star and the system? Not quite. "The fact is the articles were just horrible, both of them, just horrible." The second piece, says Moore, required "eight days of my life, including another body shooting which they didn't use; I let them come to where my family were on vacation. It's not that I need to have

'Control must remain an essential part of the marketing of Moore'

a sugar-coated story; it's just a matter of attitude."

Small wonder that Moore turned down a third *Vanity Fair* offer to be on the August cover. "It was up to me to come up with something, and I passed." Yet if the experience casts a cloud, Moore sees through to the silver lining. "When I walked away from it, I found the advantage to me: people only remember the photograph."

As she well knows from inhabiting a medium of images, words are always the first to fade. It's not the silly voice-over narration of *Indecent Proposal* that anyone will recall: it's the indelectable footage of Moore and co-star Woody Harrison cavorting in a Las Vegas bedroom, limbs thrashing against newly-won (and easily lost) cash.

Following *Ghost* and *A Few Good Men*, the film is Moore's third box office smash in a career that has had its share of flops (*No Small Affair*, *The Butcher's Wife*) and brought the star criticism for making demands that her status at the time had yet to justify. *Indecent Proposal* should still such objections, since Moore fought hard for the role and, in Hollywood terms at least (if not critical ones), has won.

"My career has certainly not been any overnight success," says the actress, who not long ago was one of an assortment of hit-pack performers (Molly Ringwald, Judd Nelson etc), many of whom seem to

have gone the way of the Reagan-Bush era that launched them. "It still feels like it's being chipped out a little bit at a time." Being female is difficult, young and female even more so. "Women are now the minority, and they never used to be. That is what's changed: in the Thirties and Forties, it was always the female star first. But I believe you get done what you set out to do if you have perseverance. I guess I don't ever have the attitude that I can't do it."

Might that attitude help explain the press sobriquet, "Gimme"? Moore continues to best her? (The nickname, by the way, scans improperly with her own, which is accented on the second syllable.) Moore is candid about her reputation for being demanding. "The way I am in general is that I don't just, kind of, show up on the set. It's hard for me to do that, although I'm sure they'd like me to. As a young woman, you're taken less seriously because you've got a greater cross to bear."

To this end, Moore's company, Rufflen Films, has some 15 projects in development, including an adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* written by Frederic Raphael. A biography of Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger is also on tap, as are various romantic comedies, animated films and children's projects. Likely to precede all this is her Broadway debut in the autumn, in a classic play she won't yet name.

Moore's one co-production credit to date, Alan Rudolph's *Mortal Thoughts*, teaming her and Willis, was a flop, but the actress insists on the benefits of increased control. "Being able to have a label of producer gave me a proper name to have an opinion, and then I no longer became opinionated. I realised, boy this is a lot easier to do it this way: I don't have to fight. I don't have to worry that my voice is important." And with that the 45 minutes allotted for Moore's own voice are up.

Still, one can only wonder why she does do this, enduring what literally has been a world tour of questioning. "In truth, I don't need to do this, except in so far as it serves the ultimate goal, which is when those handful of roles come my way, then I'll get to have as close a first chance as anybody else. If this makes a difference to that, then I'm serving what I really want to do. What it all represents is business. If you can get people to come see a movie, then you can get a greater choice of roles to do the acting you really want."



Demi Moore: "My career has certainly not been any overnight success," she says. "It still feels like it's being chipped out a little bit at a time. But I don't ever have the attitude that I can't do it."

ARTS BRIEFING

Bugles in sad shires

SHREWSBURY is preparing to celebrate one of Shropshire's most famous sons, the war poet Wilfred Owen who was born 100 years ago. The highlight of the centenary festival (June 8-13) will be the unveiling of a new Owen memorial in the grounds of Shrewsbury Abbey on the morning of June 12. Called *Symmetry*, it has been sculpted by Paul de Monchaux, who won the commission after a competition organised by the Public Art Commissions Agency. Monchaux based his granite sculpture on one of Owen's most celebrated poems, "Strange Meeting", and the line "I am the enemy you killed, my friend" is engraved on it.

● A GOLDEN period for the composer Jonathan Harvey. His new opera, *Inquest of Love*, is in rehearsal at the London Coliseum in preparation for its premiere next month by English National Opera. Now comes news that he has won the 1993 Britten Award for Composition. The 53-year-old professor of music at Sussex University won the £10,000 award for a song-cycle *Song Offerings* which he wrote in 1985.

On the waterfront

THE launch of Canals 200 — a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the 1793 canal-building boom — will give a boost to one unusual group of peripatetic thespians. They are the Minton Theatre Company from Huddersfield, which has been touring the 1,500 miles of Britain's waterways in a narrowboat each summer since 1972, exploring watery themes in drama and songs at riverside locations. On Friday, beside the canal at Rickmansworth, they will open in *Threads of Revolution*, a musical play depicting the frenzied days of the 1790s canal mania.

Last chance...

TELL it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon, but many Italian critics maintain that the Russian tenor Vladimir Atlantov produces the most authentically Verdi-ian Otello sound today. Atlantov is currently trumpeting his way through Elijah Moshinsky's spectacular production at Covent Garden (071-240 1911/1066), with Katia Ricciarelli repeating her touchingly vulnerable Desdemona and that outstanding Verdian Sir Edward Downes in the pit.

OPERA IN EUROPE: Lyons reopens its opera house with reconstructed Debussy and mangled Offenbach; plus a Steve Reich premiere in Vienna

From new heights to a new low

After a closure of six years Lyons, the second city of France, has rebuilt and reopened its 19th-century opera house. The cost of £478 million, half borne by the city, half by central and regional government, is modest, very modest indeed compared to the vast sums spent on the Bastille.

The greatest constraint was the site opposite the glorious Hôtel de Ville: there was no way of expanding it. So the architect Jean Nouvel has expanded upwards, crowning the original facade with a huge double glass roof. The result is undeniably handsome, far more so than the monstrous cardboard that disfigures the similarly constricted Monnaie in Brussels. But Covent Garden must be counting its blessings in having space on at least one side for expansion.

The interior is completely remodelled. The auditorium has been enlarged from 800 seats to 1,300 — roughly the scale of the Glyndebourne operation — and rehearsal rooms, studios and a small auditorium have somehow been included. Technically it is an extraordinary feat.

At this stage the good news starts to grow more scarce. Auditorium and foyer are in shiny black and silver, underlit: it is virtually impossible, once seated (none too comfortably), to read your programme, and the general atmosphere is hideously gloom-laden. Main access is via a series of narrow escalators: the six balconies may be reached (and escaped from) on



Jean Nouvel's remodelled Lyons opera house: the constraints of the site meant that expansion was possible only upwards

and are lit in lurid red — it is like being trapped in the Nibelheim of a Harry Kupfer production of *Rheingold*. One grimly foresees an inevitable further period of closure simply to make the interior less hazardous and oppressive, more user-friendly.

Back to the good news. The building's acoustics are excellent, and Lyons boasts a first-rate orchestra and chorus and a tradition of exceptional music directors — John Eliot Gardiner from 1983, and Kent Nagano since 1988. Nagano's conducting of the two opening performances last Friday and Saturday could hardly be

selfless, however, were not without problems.

But it was clever to open with another reconstruction, that of Debussy's unfinished *Rodrigue et Chimène* (1892). The composer left the first three acts in varying states of completeness and decipherability, and they have been realised by Georges Beck (libretto), Richard Langham Smith (chief decipherer) and Edison Denisov (orchestrator). Debussy was never satisfied with Canille Mendier's clumsily constructed text, full of the grand-opera trappings he loathed, but this did not prevent him from lavishing two hours' worth of fine music on it.

heard. As fascinating as the foretastes of Pelléas are the echoes of Mussorgsky and — more surprising — Borodin. A recording is promised.

The cast was strong: Laurence Dale and Donna Brown in the title roles, Jean-Philippe Courais and Jules Bastin as the warring fathers, and Vincent Le Texier as the King. Georges Lavaudant's production was functional, no more, with occasional outbursts of (intentional) surrealism, and Jean-Pierre Vergier's restrictive permanent set in a well, rather grey shade of grey, did not make this the most festive of openings.

Rather that, though, than what took the stage the following evening under the title of *Des Contes d'Hoffmann*, in which Louis Erlo and his dramaturge Michel Vittoz did a Peter Brook on Offenbach's defenceless score. I.e. cut it down to under two hours and played what was left without interval. The action was played in a hazy asylum, the ultimate cut-out in that you don't even have to try to convey what the piece is about: a series of chic images will do instead. Worries about the boundaries of taste arise, though, in the use of mental illness in the theatre, and the portrayal of Olympia as a traumatised paraplegic crossed several of them.

It was sad to see singers of the distinction of Barbara Hendricks, Natalie Dessay, José van Dam, Gabriel Bacquier and, in the title role, the promising young tenor Daniel Galvez-Vallejo involved in this witless farago.

Voices in search of harmony

In 1988, when Steve Reich's *Different Trains* for string quartet and recorded voices was replaced for the first time, the composer spoke of his hope that it would lead to a "new kind of documentary video music theatre". Now the promise is fulfilled in *The Cave*, which had its first performance last Saturday in Vienna's Messepalast and will come to the South Bank in August.

As in *Different Trains*, much of the material consists of snippets of speech-melody, doubled and imitated in this case by an ensemble of four singers, string quartet, two woodwind players and a typical Reichian assembly of percussion and keyboards, all precision-controlled by the conductor Paul Hillier to chime with the videotapes of the speakers. Word becomes note. Language is translated into music in a way that is both unusually direct and curiously automatic.

This is one expression of Reich's documentary faithfulness to the voices that he and his collaborator (also his wife), Beryl Korot, collected. *Voices*, a quills of voices — give *The Cave* its being, and their utterances and musical echoes, beyond all that they immediately say, seem to be repeating the opening of St John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the word." It is a solemnly appropriate message to be hearing in a piece concerned with two word-centered faiths, those of Judaism and Islam. Words generate the musical ideas. Further words lie behind these recorded words, since what all the dozens of videotaped respondents are talking about is the gallery of stories associated with a name the voices differently speak as Abraham or Ibrahim.

increased by the fact that it is also discontinuous. Sections of interview material shuffle on and off to be replaced by episodes from Genesis and the Mishnah that are either sung or else slapped onto the screens, syllable by syllable, in time with percussion music. All the time Korot's video show keeps ruthlessly to the music's course.

The perseverance continues into the second act, which moves from Jews and Genesis to Arabs and the Koran, in keeping with their documentary idealism. Reich and Korot register the divergences between the Israeli and Arab acts without emphasis or commentary.

As Reich has said: "We can't solve the problems of the Middle East." Accordingly his third act, in which the faces and voices are American, spins away from controversy. The witnesses are now more various, the clashes far more abundant and violent. The diversity of the American material is, to Reich, a release from documentary obligations, and this act is at last a continuous and exuberant musical structure. Korot's screens in this act, too, become livelier, and move beyond dutiful presentation of the speakers to show us patterns and ribbons of colour created out of features of dress or background.

The brilliant success of this third act is possible because, as in *Different Trains*, there is a harmony between documentary and artistic intentions. One could object that the triumph of the third act is a triumph of life's vanities — colour, humour, animation — over the serious discussion of contending loyalties and traditions. One could also say it is a triumph for optimism and the human capacity to begin afresh.

Foreign currency

Today the government announces a big overseas expansion of its business sponsorship scheme. Simon Tait reports

Geoff Shingles, the chairman of Digital, the computer giant sponsoring the National Theatre's production of Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*, hosted a little first-night supper for some commercial contacts. "I told them straight: 'This is not a hand-out, it's good trade,'" he says. "Businessmen have not woken up to the fact that there are a lot of opportunities in quality productions to gain business."

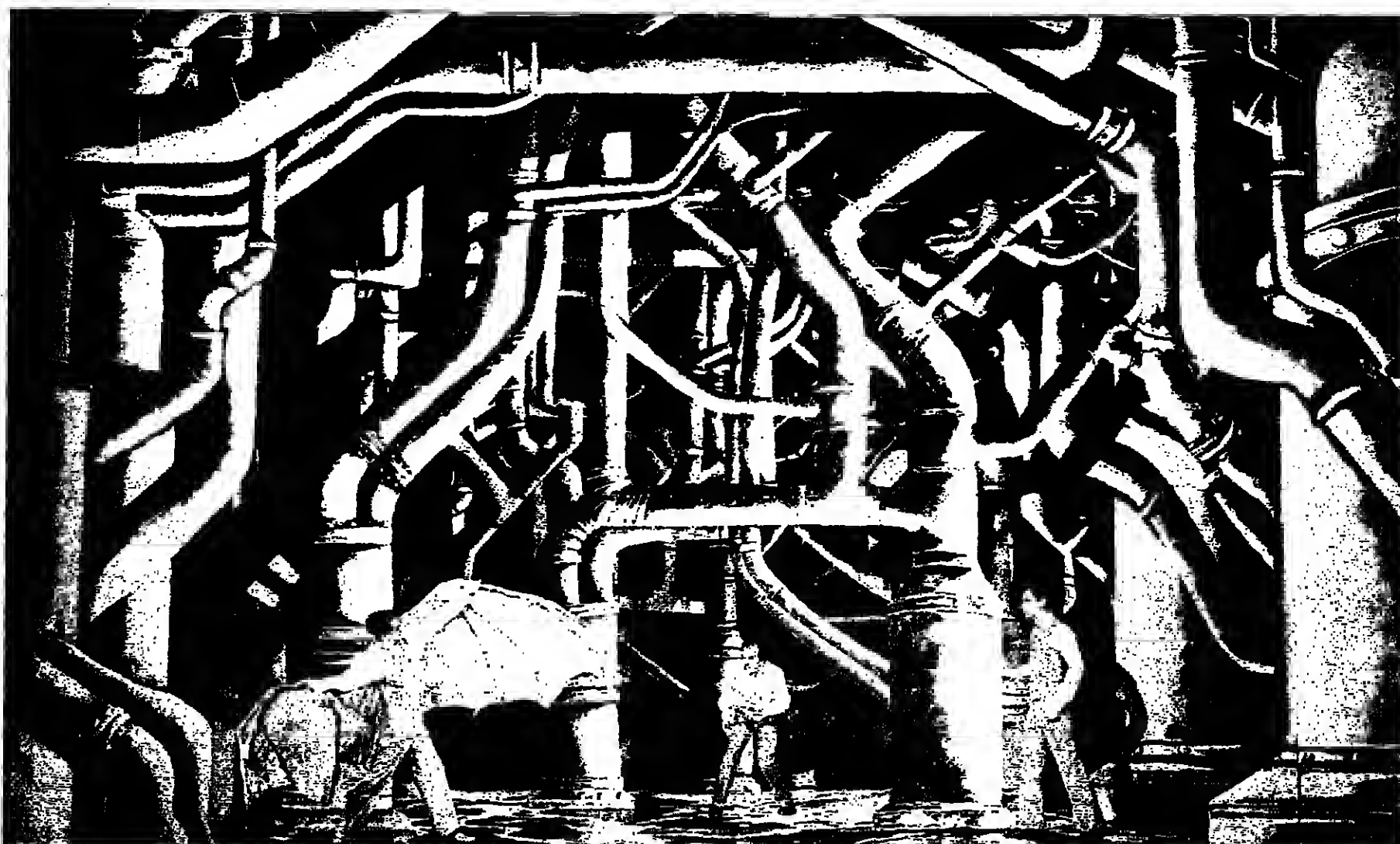
Shingles has now relinquished the chief executive's job at Digital, joined the board of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts — and become a missionary. His experience is the best kind of parable. Facing a slump in the computer market, Digital looked for its market and found that arts sponsorship could provide it, as well as being a hedge against recession. Digital's support for dance, for the Royal Academy's Monet exhibition last year, the new *Arcadia*, and most recently for the British Library — furnishing it with £1 million worth of computers — has given it a market profile which has kept business buoyant. Shingles says. What's more, he claims that espousing the arts is giving British companies access to foreign markets they have been trying to break into for years.

For ABSA, last week seemed like one to forget. There was the arrest

of the former director of the Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme, which ABSA manages for the government, following the disappearance of £150,000 from the scheme. Then Lord Sainsbury used ABSA's showpiece Goodman dinner (at which he won the prime award for his cultural patronage) to launch a broadside against the Arts Council. And finally, the Arts Council itself appeared to abandon all pretence that business sponsorship was mere "icing on the subsidy cake" by announcing that grim subsidy forecasts mean it will concentrate on supporting the less tasty confections for arts sponsorship — such as contemporary dance and visual art. The implication is that those mounting expensive music and drama performances will need to search ever more intensely for business backers.

But actually the news is good. ABSA is expected to announce soon that, despite the recession, arts sponsorship has not only survived but increased. What has continued to slump is corporate membership: the boxes at the opera to entertain clients, champagne receptions at the interval. More business people seem to have taken Shingles's point than he thought. Tonight, Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, will announce at a British Council lecture that, far from being abandoned, the BSIS is

'Sponsors are not just going to hand you money in exchange for a nice time'



Business show: (from left) Phelim McDermott, Guy Dartnell and Lee Simpson in *Improbable Tales* at the Nottingham Playhouse, sponsored by Youngers brewery

being extended overseas. Some £250,000 a year will be earmarked for use by the British Council, which has raised its sponsorship from £670,000 in 1988 to £5.8 million this year.

Brooke's speech, though, will not be the main event. The audience will be there largely for a discussion on the state of British arts sponsorship and its potential abroad by a panel including Richard Eyre, artistic director of the National Theatre, Shingles, and Colin Tweedy, ABSA's general director. "Seven or eight years ago," Eyre says, "arts companies had their heads in the clouds and a partisan attitude to sponsors. Now everyone

has accepted that plural funding — the mix of sponsorship and subsidy — is a condition of life."

The other award-winner at the Goodman dinner was Ruth Mackenzie, executive director of the Nottingham Playhouse, where she has increased arts sponsorship from £2,000 a year in 1990 to £150,000. "Sponsors are not just going to hand you money in exchange for a nice time," she says. "They want partnership. It's a shared vision, and they want our vision. The beauty is that we've discovered it's a creative partnership in which we get new ideas."

The latest such partnership product is *Improbable Tales*, which

began a month's run in Nottingham last week. A cast including such comedy notables as Tony Slattery and Josie Lawrence take the *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* cue and improvise a play from audience suggestions. The idea came out of a three-year partnership deal with Youngers beer.

"The stereotype of the sponsors wanting nothing but safe stuff is nonsense now," Mackenzie says. "They know the market they are aiming at and so do we."

Sponsorship has survived because of a new attitude among sponsors who now see themselves moving to bigger, overseas stages. Guinness has just opened a Brussels

office, and its sponsorship of the successful Royal Shakespeare Company *Comedy of Errors* there in 1992 was an important political move. One thing on the company's mind has been the deliberations by EC commissioners on whether to follow France's lead and ban alcohol advertising.

"We needed to make a corporate impact, rather than selling beer or whisky," says Lynette Royle, Guinness's group PR manager.

"The quality of British work is so clearly a major success with European audiences, and sponsoring it underpins our corporate presence. But to make it work for you, you can't be a fairweather sponsor; it

has to be a three-year deal at the very least."

Sponsorship is still hard to get. Tweedy says, but as much because commerce is "increasingly picky about what it's going to get involved with" as because of a shortage of spare cash. Businesses want to get into the community now, local as well as European, and supporting education programmes is more important than drinking champagne with famous actors.

"We're not the icing on the cake any more," Shingles says. "We're the baking powder inside that makes the cake rise. But the government still has to help bake the cake first."

CONCERTS: Many happy returns for György Ligeti; orchestral grandeur on a small scale; French sorcery and Russian magic

Funny serious, funny ha-ha



Ligeti: forever young

György Ligeti is 70, but you would not believe it. The Hungarian composer who fled his homeland in the aftermath of the failed uprising in 1956 wears a perpetual air of mild mischief that undoubtedly helps keep him young. He likes a joke, although his jokes often have their serious side, as his opera *Le Grand Macabre* so brilliantly demonstrates.

To herald this celebratory concert given by the London Sinfonietta under the eminently capable direction of Markus Stenz, we heard the prelude for that work, a chaotic and hilarious antiphony of car horns. It works better in the theatre, or perhaps one or two of the instruments were on this occasion too perfectly in tune with each other.

There was supposed to be another mild jest, a performance of Ligeti's self-parodying *Fragment* of 1961, 11 bars scored for a weird combination involving double-basses, contrabassoon, bass trombone and double bass tuba. But the composer secured a deal with the

London Sinfonietta / Stenz
Barbican

organisers: in exchange for cancelling the piece he agreed to give a speech to explain why he did not want it performed. Gerard Hoffnung, it appears, did these things so much better.

But Ligeti is not merely a gentle clown. Delicacy, poise and refinement, often mixed with theatricality and a mastery of illusion of facility, are the hallmarks of his music's flavour. Wisps of sound, ideas based on scarcely modulating sequences of pitches, collisions and combinations of colour and line and rhythms that can coalesce or stay lucidly contrapuntal form the cornerstones of his language.

The earliest piece in the concert was the Chamber Concerto of 1969-70, in whose first three movements three different motions — basically flowing, stagnant and mechanical — are defined, to be dramatically combined and finally united

in the fourth movement, *Melodien* (1971) seemed a relatively purist work in comparison, its concentrated counterpoints of melodies resulting in subtle changes of palette and patterns.

Superimpositions of opposites often provide the motive power for Ligeti's music, as the first movement of his Piano Concerto (1986-88) — where the soloist plays in one time, the pizzicato strings in another — demonstrates. As befits its genre, this is a colourful, varied and dramatic work. It was given brilliantly by the pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard.

Hákan Hardenberger was the equally impressive solo trumpeter in Elgar Howarth's transcriptions made in 1991 of three coloratura arias sung by Gopop, the chief of the secret police, in *Le Grand Macabre*. Context matters in Ligeti, and this extract seemed like a fish out of its water. Better to return it to its pond and have the whole, wonderful opera back in London — and soon.

STEPHEN PETTITT

TATYANA Nikolaeva, pianist and babushka supreme, presented her double visiting card of Bach and Shostakovich with customary and indomitable authority at the Barbican. The two composers, of course, meet and shake hands robustly in the person of Nikolaeva. Shostakovich composed his 24 Preludes and Fugues inspired by Nikolaeva's playing of Bach's own set; and her own series of Bach's "48" at the Wigmore Hall earlier this year showed exactly what it was that Shostakovich admired.

She reveals a shameless joy in the resources of the modern piano to release the full resonance of Bach's harmonies. She delights, too, in keeping all his contrapuntal voices firmly in their places as if they were so many precocious grandchildren playing at her knee. Each countersubject in the knotty fugue *Ricercare* No 3 from *The Musical Offering* was cherished for its distinctive character. The long vaga-

Babushka supreme

Tatyana Nikolaeva
Barbican

ries of the Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue were brought firmly to heel by ringing cadences. The opening Fantasy was truly polychromatic in Nikolaeva's hands. Her fingers here created a new lightness and brilliance. Fused with ample, shrewdly judged pedalling and the vibrant springing nature of her chords, the music's velocity became almost visible as a pattern of rapidly shifting colours.

A similar sense of strings

vibrating, rather than hammering being struck, characterised her *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, its bass line ringing out with predictable richness, its chorale suspended, as it were, outside time and motion. This was the Myra Hess arrangement; Nikolaeva's own of the Toccata and Fugue in D Minor returned to the muscular octaves, chords and emphatic paraphrasing of her own playing. After such solid nourishment, Shostakovich's Piano Sonata No 2 seemed a puny affair. Its often vacuous and long-winded self-parody was thrown into sharp relief by the musical substance of the first half, and even the composer's loyal colleague could not convince us otherwise.

HILARY FINCH

Discreet charms of a Gallic rarity

BBC PO / Tortelier
Manchester

WHEN he joined the BBC Philharmonic, Yan Pascal Tortelier indicated that, contrary to general expectation, he would not be conducting very much French music. Sure enough, he has avoided the more obvious sections of the French repertoire.

At the same time, however, he has taken an interest in the unlikely area of the French symphony, demonstrating not only that it exists but also that there are some brilliant examples. Not least among them are the two by Henri Dutilleul, which he introduced last season, and a remarkable score by the composer of the ever-popular *L'Apprenti sorcier*.

The Symphony in C by Paul Dukas might not be one of the greatest works of its kind. It seems to have been written as a response to a challenge rather than as a creative necessity. What's more, in that the ear is continually drawn into making stylistic comparisons — ranging between César Franck and Anton Bruckner — it has no distinctive personality.

On the other hand, it has all the structural virtues, with climaxes perfectly calculated in scale and unerringly placed in each of the three movements. Its material — which, moreover, intriguingly coloured throughout — is an abundance of attractive and clearly crafted melody. And if

none of that is particularly unusual in a late Romantic symphony, it is surprising to hear the rhythmic drive and even something of the neo-classical clarity of Albert Roussel anticipated as early as 1896.

The energy with which Tortelier and the BBC Philharmonic applied themselves to the Dukas Symphony, in what might well have been its first performance in the Free Trade Hall, could have had something to do with relief at having completed a run of performances of Peter Maxwell Davies's *Orkney Wedding and Sunrise*: good occasional fun, it is not a work which improves with prolonged acquaintance (although I must confess to having missed the tiny allusion to Strauss's Alpine sunrise until now).

Or it could have been inspired by a determination not to be upstaged by Nikolai Demidenko's interpretation of Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto which was due to come after the interval. If so, the orchestral players did not stand a chance.

As they generously acknowledged, this was a quite extraordinary performance — powerful though not heavy-handed (Demidenko's strength derives from precision rather than sheer weight of touch), wide ranging in colour, illuminatingly lucid in texture, and alive in expression and structure.

GERALD LARNER

THE premier American small-scale band over the past decade, in most people's perception, would be the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. But the St Paul Chamber Orchestra has been around longer, and its 1993 European tour is doing much to establish it as the latest hot tip.

A comparison with the Orpheus is instructive, for the high-gloss, super-powered sound of the latter ensemble can make it seem like a relentlessly efficient machine. The virtuosity of the St Paul orchestra is equally unassailable, yet its brilliance never stands in the way of its musical expression.

In its Barbican concert,

Perfectly formed

St Paul CO / Wolff
Barbican

Beethoven's Second Symphony in D major had an explosive vigour that sprang partly from the split-second precision of the players, and partly from the inspiring direction of Hugh Wolff, their principal conductor.

Drawing on the orchestra's virtues of perfectly controlled ensemble and beautifully blended timbres, he harnessed the propulsive energies of Beethoven's phrases in a way that we hear usually only from period instruments. The result

was a joyously invigorating reading. The same was true of Mozart's Flute Concerto in G, K313, where Wolff's well-sprung accompaniments provided an ideal backdrop for James Galway's light-footed, smiling rendition of the solo part. Galway has lost none of his capacity to amaze or charm. The concerto's final pay-off, where the flute disappears grinning up an arpeggio, could have been written for him.

In Ravel's *Le Tombeau de*

Couperin Wolff teased out the nostalgic spirit of these antique evocations with scrupulous concern for subtleties of nuance. Similarly his care for expressive contrasts of light and shade marked out the opening pages of Barber's *Adagio for Strings*.

Then began the long, final ascent, shunning the usual histrionic intensity for a more delicately graded, more moving, climax and aftermath. The only miscalculation was to allow the hushed ending to coincide with the traditional nine o'clock chorus of bleeping watches.

BARRY MILLINGTON

ROCK CONCERT: The singer, not the song

Annoyed by Midge's

Midge Ure
Shaw Theatre

Billed as "an evening in an intimate environment presenting the songs of Midge Ure", the format for this 16-date "tour alone" has fallen rather uncomfortably between that of MTV's current *Unplugged* series — a back to basics demonstration of the performer's art — and that grandiose event, the masquerade.

Ure explained that his motivation came partly from his recent experience in travelling America on a songwriters' bill, with each participant discussing their compositional technique in an on-stage interview between songs, and partly from his eagerness to vault out of the album-tour-album cycle that limits a recording act's opportunities for performing live. Both fine in theory. Sadly, though, the ten min-

utes and more it took to impart this information, was to prove indicative of the evening's dominant tone — of hobby-horses too eagerly ridden by a man whose appealingly mocking humour could not entirely disguise a tendency towards grating self-righteousness.

It had begun promisingly enough, with Ure on acoustic guitar singing stripped down versions of "Dear God" and Tom Rush's lovely "No Regrets". Then, during one of the series of monologues, he announced his intention to draw questions from the audience. How did you come to be in Thin Lizzy? Why did you leave Ultravox? Which is your

favourite/least favourite song? Do you have any dreams left to fulfil? That sort of thing.

Fascinating stuff for hardcore fans and archivists perhaps, but a test of endurance for anyone else — as were his freely offered views about the NME, the poor quality of British pop radio and the barren waste that is the current music scene.

Given that among the musical interludes were such enjoyable items as "The Leaving", on which he was accompanied by Gordon Giltrap, a nicely judged version of Phil Lynott's "Little Girl in Bloom" and a strong new song, "Breathe", one question in particular hung over a long and often exasperating evening. Why didn't he just sing?

ALAN JACKSON



Ure: rocky masterclass

the LONDON GRADUATE

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Lively, young agency seeks very capable secretary to work for a charming client director and account manager. It is a busy and demanding role involving a variety of responsibilities. The main area is client promotions (direct mail, incentives, etc) which requires typing up presentations, proposals, correspondence and extensive telephone liaison. In addition to this the Director is also responsible for the personal recruitment, reviews and policy decisions. You will also play a mini 'office manager' role ensuring the smooth running of all systems and facilities for the office. You must be well presented with the capacity to work to tight deadlines.
Age: 23-35. £14,000

Please call Marianne Hope on
071-734 8484

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£11,969 - £14,561 plus £1923 L.W. (pay review pending)
CENTRAL LONDON

The aim of the Health Education Authority is to help the people of England become more knowledgeable, better motivated, and more able to acquire and maintain good health.

Our Finance Director and Strategic Commissioning Director hold key positions within the organisation; the demands they will place on the PAs we appoint to assist them are correspondingly challenging.

We are looking for resilient, flexible and well organised professionals who have the initiative and discretion to provide secretarial and administrative support of the highest quality. This will include screening and re-directing telephone calls, arranging meetings, travel and accommodation, and on some occasions creating financial models.

You'll therefore need to be numerate and familiar with databases and spreadsheets (Lotus 123), possess outstanding secretarial skills including shorthand and knowledge of wordprocessing, and be experienced at setting up and maintaining systems and records. Good communication skills and the confidence to deal with people at the highest level are essential.

As key supporting members of these Directorate's teams, you will also need the enthusiasm to work late from time to time.

Both positions will be well rewarded, with an attractive salary and benefits including 20 days annual leave, interest free season ticket loan and a contribution towards annual membership of a health and fitness club.

For further details and an application form, please contact Sue Hackett, Health Education Authority, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9TX. Tel: 071-413 1861.

The Authority is committed to becoming a full Equal Opportunities Employer and offers a non-smoking environment.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 2nd June 1993.



Administrative PA £23,000 pkg

Leading Investment Bank is looking for a bright secretary/PA to join an expanding and very successful team. With a head for figures and an enquiring mind, you will be involved in research and analysis projects to tight deadlines. Other responsibilities will include monitoring press coverage, liaising with overseas offices and producing presentation material. Financial experience is essential, combined with 60 wpm typing, spreadsheet and DTP knowledge. Age: 25 - 35.
Please telephone Caroline Smith on 071-377 8827

Crone Corkill

Invest In The Best! to £19,000 + bens

Well established Investment Bank requires a bright, confident Senior Secretary to work with a charismatic senior Executive. Your day will be varied and hectic as you liaise with clients, handle expenses and organise highly complex travel itineraries. You need a sense of humour, have the ability to work to deadlines and have confident secretarial and W.P. skills (90/65). A financial background and a knowledge of a European language desirable. Excellent benefits include paid o/t (no m/s). Please telephone Fiona Marriott on 071-437 6032.

HOBSTONES

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Write with C.V. To: Sarah Hale - Jago D'Arvy Public Relations
28 Cadogan Place
London SW1X 9RY
Tel: 071-235 8888

LEGAL SECRETARY WITH SEVERAL YEARS EXPERIENCE IN LITIGATION

Required by medium size firm of solicitors. Excellent secretarial skills, including fast accurate WordPerfect 5.1 and shorthand essential, are needed in this busy but friendly environment, as is a high degree of organisational ability.
To apply, please send a full CV with current salary details to Ms M. Shillings, Gainsborough, Drury Lane Mans House, 10 Drury Lane, London WC2B 5RE. NO AGENCIES.

SECRETARY/PA to CHAIRMAN/MANAGING DIRECTOR

Of a highly successful private company based in Buckinghamshire, specialising in the supply of oilfield equipment.
Age 25-40. Must have worked at a senior level in a small company. Good salary, pension, private health scheme. A flexible attitude to hours is definitely required.
Please reply with full CV to Box No: 2311.

TEMP SECRETARIES AND DTP

We are looking for first class temporary secretaries and DTP specialists, available immediately, with any of the following packages:
PC: Word for Windows 2.0, DWA, Lotus 123, Excel 3/4, Powerpoint, Pagemaker, Ventura.
Macintosh: Word, Write, Powerpoint, Pagemaker, MacDraw, Excel, Persuasion, Quark Express.
Good shorthand also required.

Contact Angela Davis at the Anthony Cook Bureau on 071 628 3355.

Anthony Cook Bureau
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS



The Wellcome Trust, the largest grant-giving charity in the UK, has two exciting opportunities for secretaries to work in the following departments:-

Meetings & Travel

We are looking for a mature and confident person to provide the Meetings and Travel Manager with secretarial and administrative assistance. Duties will include taking dictation, providing the team with secretarial support, organising meetings and making travel arrangements. You must have shorthand skills of 90wpm and have excellent communication skills together with the ability to work under pressure.

Molecular and Cell Biology

This department requires someone with experience of working in a scientific, medical or academic environment to provide secretarial support to the Programme Director and his team. Duties will include audio-typing and word processing of general correspondence, organising diaries, preparing papers, typing reports and generally helping with the smooth running of the department.

Candidates for both posts must have fast, accurate WP skills (preferably DW4), at least three years' secretarial experience and possess a good general education, preferably to 'A' level standard.

Salary will be on a scale from £14,532 to £17,925 plus excellent benefits.

Written applications, including a covering letter and full Curriculum Vitae should be sent to Miss Jacky Morrissey, Recruitment Officer, The Wellcome Trust, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE by Wednesday 2nd June 1993.



PERSONAL ASSISTANT to Chief Executive Officer, Publishing

c. £20,000 plus benefits

Fast...demanding...confidential...pressurised...
Could you provide the kind of top PA support role that the Chief Executive Officer is seeking?
Are you adept at juggling priorities, changing and adapting schedules, arranging international travel and itineraries, and organising functions, lunches and conferences?

Ideally a graduate, you must have worked for a minimum of 4 years at Managing Director level in a large, pressurised and confidential working environment. Your excellent skills must include a minimum shorthand speed of 90 w.p.m. and fast and accurate audio typing and wordprocessing. You should be assertive, but personable, a good forward planner and enjoy working as part of a small team.

If you are interested, please send or fax, a full C.V., giving details of your present role, current skills and remuneration to:-
Gail Shears, Personnel Officer, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8JB. Fax 081 307 4817. Closing date for applications is 26th May 1993.

HarperCollinsPublishers

CJES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS GROUP

2 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 4JY
Tel: 071-589 3588 or 071-589 3575
Fax No: 071-256 8501

Opportunity to get involved and take responsibility.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ SECRETARY

LONDON SW1 £13,000-£15,000 NEGOTIABLE
SPECIALIST INTERNATIONAL LEASING COMPANY
Applications are invited from well presented candidates aged 19-25 (older candidates will be considered) with good secretarial/administrative skills, ideally shorthand and an eye for detail. Working with the Business Manager you will be providing full administrative back up, including maintenance of records, invoicing, insurance, international certification and general office duties, as well as providing secretarial support to the M.D. and B.M. when necessary. It is a dynamic company and candidates must be enthusiastic, adaptable and able to show initiative. Initial remuneration is negotiable £13,000-£15,000 (commitment will be rewarded) plus private health and discretionary Christmas bonus. Applications in strict confidence under reference AAS787/T to the Managing Director, CJES.

SECRETARY/TYPIST

Secretary urgently required as essential back-up in the busy fast sales department of this highly successful and well established property company. The successful candidate should have excellent audio typing skills, good telephone manner, lots of common sense and the ability to learn quickly and enthusiastically.
Please reply in writing enclosing a copy of your CV to: Cheryl Turner, 5 Anderson Street, London SW3 3JU. (No Agencies please).

St Paul's Cathedral PA to The Registrar (Chief Executive)

Must have excellent shorthand and WP skills (Wordperfect 5.1) with experience of working at senior level in the traditional PA role. Smart appearance plus flexible, hard-working attitude essential. Salary: £17,500.
Please apply in writing with full CV to:
Miss Honor Matthews
Administration Manager
St Paul's Cathedral
London EC4M 8AD

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A Major International Management Services Company is currently looking to recruit an Executive Secretary with experience of working at top management level. The successful candidate will have several years experience working for either a General Manager or Managing Director of a large corporation.

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If you feel you meet these requirements please send your CV, noting your recent remuneration and a telephone number where we can contact you during the day to arrange interviews.

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Many of our Blue Chip Clients have a specific requirement for well presented, intelligent secretaries keen to utilise their creative DTP skills within New Business Development Areas.

FOR CITY POWERPOINT ON IBM PC MONITOR V2 ON APPLEMAC. **FOR WEST END** POWERPOINT ON APPLEMAC MONITOR WORD 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Backley helps to pierce javelin barrier



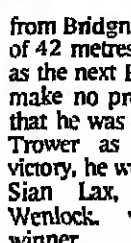
Getting the point: Steve Backley demonstrates his technique in Telford yesterday to young javelin throwers aiming to emulate the former world record holder

In Finland everyone knows someone who throws a javelin, like everyone in Britain knows someone who runs. Pavi Alafantti, the women's European champion, took up the javelin because she wanted to show off to the ten boys next door. What if British children were as sold on it? If only...

Throwing javelins may not be part of the British culture but, curiously, we have excelled at it. The javelin is by far the most successful British field event of recent times. Pure luck, according to John Trower, the national coach. "All the success we have had in javelin throwing the last ten years has been fortuitously gained," Trower said. Fortuitous in the sense that Steve Backley, Fatima Whitbread, Tessa Sanderson and David



A new scheme has been seeking javelin talent. David Powell, athletics correspondent, reports



from Bridgnorth, with a throw of 42 metres, was proclaimed as the next Backley. He could make no promises, but, now that he was to be coached by Trower as his reward for victory, he would certainly try. Sian Lax, 13, of Much Wenlock, was the girls' winner.

Trower's combing of schools is to ensure that javelin throwers do not end up playing cricket. "In Finland the javelin is a national sport, so if you can throw you get picked up through school; in this country, if you can throw you play cricket, and we want to stop that," Trower said.

There have been too many examples of British sport enjoying its champions, not thinking of tomorrow's tennis after Fred Perry is one; in athletics we think of the long jump, which buried its head in the sand after Lynn Davies planted his feet in it further than anyone else at the 1964 Olympics. The javelin is an event now helping itself.

Backley, 24, has lost his world record, Jan Zelezny adding more than four metres to it with 95.54 metres. "Zelezny throwing 95 metres has really made me look to improve," he said yesterday. After his European and Commonwealth wins in 1990, he was disappointed in 1991 by failing to reach the world championship final and his third

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sampras rallies after shaky start

THE United States tennis team survived a shaky performance by Pete Sampras, the world No. 1, to defeat Switzerland 3-0 yesterday on the opening day of the World Team Cup in Düsseldorf. Spain also won 2-1 against Russia, putting the defending champions at the top of the blue group standings with the US.

Sampras staved off two match points in the second set tie-break against Marc Rosset before beating the Swiss Olympic champion 2-6, 7-6, 6-2. "I shouldn't have won the match," Sampras said. "But you need some luck to fend off two match points."

The American, Michael Chang, easily beat Jacob Hlasek 6-2, 6-3 in the other singles, while the doubles team of Patrick McEnroe and Richey Reneberg slipped past Hlasek and Rosset 6-4, 6-3. The United States, the top seeds in the blue group, are seeking a record fourth title and their first since 1985.

Tough task for Pyatt

BOXING: Chris Pyatt will have to call on all his experience and stamina to overcome Sumbu Kalambay, a middleweight born in Zaire but based in Italy, as he makes a second attempt to win a World Boxing Organisation (WBO) title in his home town of Leicester tonight. Although Kalambay is 37, he remains a formidable opponent, having won 57 and drawn one of his 63 bouts. He has twice beaten Herol Graham and also defeated Mike McCallum, the former World Boxing Association title-holder, but lost the rematch. Pyatt, 29, was beaten by John David Jackson, of the United States, when he attempted to win the WBO light-middleweight title in 1990.

Stephens returns

RUGBY LEAGUE: Gary Stephens is to return to Halifax as assistant to Mal Reilly. Stephens, who played under Reilly for six seasons at Castleford, has resigned as assistant coach at Leeds. He replaces Allan Agar, who has moved to Castleford. Stephens, 40, who coached Ryedale-York before moving to Leeds as assistant two years ago, said: "I had some successful years with Mal at Castleford and I'm looking forward to working with him again."

Peter Regan, the Australian coach, has signed a new 12-month contract with Rochdale Hornets, of the second division.

Khristova tests positive

ATHLETICS: Tsvetanka Khristova, the women's world discus champion and Olympic silver medal-winner, has failed a drugs test. The Bulgarian athletics federation said yesterday that Khristova and another discus thrower, Stefania Simova, had failed an initial A test. The samples were taken during a visit to Bulgaria in March by officials from the International Amateur Athletic Federation. The out-of-competition tests were carried out mainly in the Sofia area and involved 13 athletes. Their second, or B, samples will be examined by the IAAF/Olympic sports laboratory in Cologne on a date yet to be decided.

Players cashing in

RUGBY UNION: Australian players will make a financial killing this year without breaking the sport's strict rules of not being paid to play the game. The 1991 World Cup winners are expected to earn at least Aus\$30,000 (£13,600) each from sponsorship, promotion, television rights and a gala dinner, the Australian Rugby Union (ARU) said yesterday. The Wallabies have formed a players' company, Wallaby Promotions and Marketing, which channels profits back to the players. Last year the ARU gave the Wallaby squad ten per cent of its Aus\$1.56 million revenue and this year it is expected to contribute more.

LeMond not listed

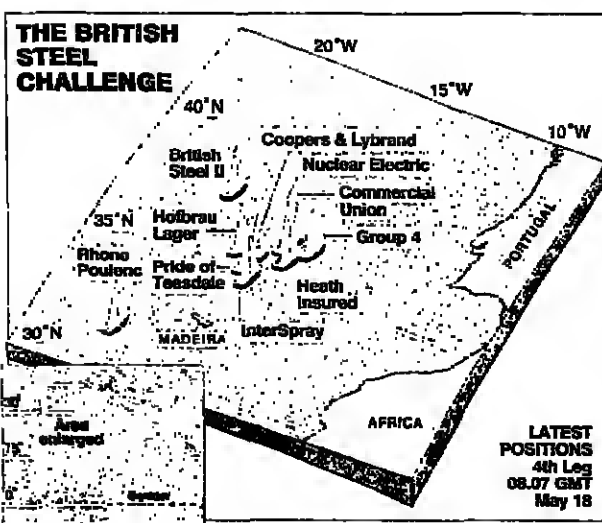
CYCLING: Organisers of the Tour de France yesterday announced the names of 14 teams entered for the race, but Greg LeMond's GAN squad was not an automatic qualifier. LeMond's squad could still compete if his team is among six wild-card invitations that will be issued on June 15. LeMond won the Tour de France in 1986, 1989 and 1990. He failed to finish in 1991 and dropped out last year. The American rider has fared poorly in races this season. Miguel Indurain, of Spain, has won the last two Tours. His Banesto team is second in the international professional rankings, which determine the automatic entries.

Gascoigne unmasked

FOOTBALL: The carbon mask designed to protect Paul Gascoigne's fractured cheekbone has been stolen. The theft occurred at Lazio's training ground on Sunday night, only hours after Gascoigne had inspired his team to a 5-0 win over Ancona. Although no club officials were available to confirm the story, the Italian newspaper, *Corriere dello Sport*, speculated that the mask — worth about 200,000 lire (£100) — was stolen by a Lazio supporter. Gascoigne fractured his cheekbone in a mid-air collision during England's 2-2 draw with Holland in a World Cup qualifying match at Wembley last month.

Chasing pack hard on heels of Merriweather

By Barry Pickett



AS THE leaders in the British Steel Challenge round-the-world race closed to within a thousand miles of the Southampton finish yesterday, Richard Merriweather's Commercial Union continued to hold a tenuous 11-mile lead over Group 4 Securitas, the first in a close bunch of chasing yachts.

British Steel II, skippered by Richard Tudor, who took the gamble a week ago of steering an extreme westerly route up the Atlantic in search of stronger winds, remains the most northerly yacht and is sailing with free sheets into strong north-easterly winds than those crews 180 miles to the east, as they move towards Cape Finisterre later this week.

Group 4, skippered by Mike Golding, has an equally tenuous 12-mile lead over John Chinenov's Nuclear Electric, her rival for overall honours. The pressure is beginning to tell, particularly on Nuclear Electric. "Talk about intense, the pressure on the skipper and crew is immense," Greta Thomas said on board Nuclear Electric yesterday. "It will be 14 very exhilarated but exhausted people when we eventually set foot on dry land in Southampton. It is like a cat-and-mouse game out here. One day we gain, the next, our rival does."

"But the gains are so small on either side that it appears that the race for overall victory will continue right up to the end," Vivian Cherry, skipper of Coopers & Lybrand, which dropped to sixth yesterday behind British Steel II, reported. "The temperatures are beginning to drop and the thermals are coming out of storage. Days of T-shirts and shorts are over."

"The winds seem more consistent now with the long-range forecast showing a depression developing to give us a westerly gale up the Channel for what should be a match-racing finish."

Level pegging in Texaco Trophy

THE match today at Old Trafford is the 53rd one-day cricket international between England and Australia. In a series that dates back to January 1979, both teams have won 25 matches, with one tie and one abandonment.

Their most recent encounter was a day-night match in Sydney during the World Cup last year, and England enjoyed a comfortable victory. They dismissed Australia in 49 overs for 171, a total they

passed in fewer than 41 overs and for the loss of only two wickets. Botham, excluded from England's squad for the Texaco Trophy, took four wickets for 31 and scored 53 in an opening partnership of 107 with Graham Gooch, who made 58.

Gooch has a fine record in these matches, having hit four centuries with a highest of 136 at Lord's in 1989 (the most recent match between the teams in England). Australia's leading century-maker

Northamptonshire opt for early departure

THE PARKS (final day of three): Oxford University drew with Northamptonshire.

OXFORD University's match against Northamptonshire ended in a tame draw yesterday. The students finished 77 runs short of their victory target with four wickets left and the county decided against pressing for victory with 12 overs remaining.

Oxford, set to score 244 off a possible 66 overs, reached 123 for two at the start of the last 20 overs, but when two wickets fell in the next two overs, they gave up the chase.

Northamptonshire claimed two more successes at 145 and 147, whereupon Lamb led his players off the field.

Earlier, Oxford — resuming their first innings at 169 for six — lost their last four wickets for 11 runs to finish five runs short of the follow-on target.

Northamptonshire decided not to enforce the follow-on and, instead, reversed their batting order in the second innings.

They were quickly reduced to 21 for three by Jeh and Yeatsley, but Ripley and Loye, who put on an unbeaten 116 on Saturday, again stood firm

Bears thrive on Argentine skill

By John Watson

Hipwood, replaced Urs Schwarzenbach, who was injured in the No. 1 slot, and played with great verve.

Cowdroy Park, though less formidable and less accurate in the field, played an exceptionally good team game, always marking and backing up faithfully, while Charles Beresford, who played back, thwarted many assaults.

This tournament is marked by the innovation of American professional umpires, one of whom, John Emery, was on duty yesterday.

The contest continues at

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL CAREER RECORDS

England batting and fielding									
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ctst
D G Cook	3	0	0	1	37.00	1-37	3	26	0
N H Fairbrother	37	3	0	8	110.1	113	40.86	1	8
A G Gooch	117	114	6	2143	145	36.26	9	23	43
G A Hick	29	28	5	944	105	41.04	1	8	18
R A Knapman	16	5	2	40	14	13.33	0	0	8
P W Jarvis	13	8	2	26	16	6.50	0	0	1
C C Lewis	38	27	2	234	35	11.70	0	0	32
G R Pople	42	29	12	419	69	24.04	0	0	11
M R Ramprakash	2	2	0	6	6	6	0	0	0
R A Smith	55	54	7	1886	129	20.12	3	12	18
A J Stewart	46	43	4	1182	103	30.30	1	7	32/3

Australia batting and fielding									
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ctst
D C Boon	139	135	10	4228	123	35.42	5	22	35
A R Border	230	225	25	6081	127	39.40	3	37	117
I A Healy	88	56	17	754	59	19.33	0	0	101/11
M G Hughes	30	16	6	80	13	10.00	0	0	5
O R Martin	7	6	0	85	40	14.16	0	0	0
T B A May	22	6	3	51	19	7.00	0	0	1
C J McDermott	101	64	14	370	37	7.40	0	0	22
P R Reide	16	11	9	77	23	25.50	0	0	0
M A Taylor	40	39	0	1216	94	31.23	11	13	0
S K Warne	1	1	0	3	3	3.00	0	0	0
M E Waugh	52	41	3	1302	93	25.59	1	10	25
S R Waugh	143	127	32	2875	83	30.26	0	0	13
T J Zohmer	21	14	3	121	50	11.00	0	0	1

Bowling									
	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	50	Econ	
D G Cook	11	1	37	1	37.00	1-37	3	26	0
N H Fairbrother	37	3	0	8	110.1	113	40.86	1	8
A G Gooch	326	26	1336	26	39.88	3	27	5.09	0
G A Hick	33	1	168	4	42.00	0	0	5.09	0
R A Knapman	161	1	7	686	20	32.33	0	0	1.13
P W Jarvis	114	3	6	519	22	23.40	0	0	1.43
C C Lewis	257	18	1287	40	32.42	4	30	4.35	0
G R Pople	373	50	1578	43	36.69	4	42	4.20	0

SPORT

WEDNESDAY MAY 19 1993

Differing concerns for England and Australia at start of one-day international series

Gooch considers
change of role
in opening gameBY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE agonising that preceded Graham Gooch's resumption of the England captaincy was forgotten yesterday. Two months short of his fortieth birthday, Gooch was pondering a new role in the side for today's opening Texaco Trophy international against Australia, and speaking pointedly of his wish to stay in charge throughout the summer.

Gooch, while reluctant to vacate the opener's position, hinted that he might bat down the order at Old Trafford today. If Neil Fairbrother is ruled out by hamstring trouble, this would clear the way for Mark Lathwell, of whom most of the country has heard plenty but seen nothing, to make his debut for England, playing where he does for Somerset.

Whatever happens in this opening skirmish, however, Gooch is not about to fall on his sword. India disenchanted him, as it had done before, but one last series against the oldest enemy has reinvigorated him and he has no desire to hand over his job before he is ready.

Yesterday, he made his position plain. "After what happened in the winter, the selectors were entitled to reapportion me for only half the series," he said. "Nobody was more disappointed and upset than I was about India and we have ground to make up."

But, when pressed on the theory that a new captain might be tried before the winter tour to the Caribbean, for which he is unavailable, Gooch was less philosophical. "I would have thought that beating Australia was the most important thing on the agenda. I don't think we should be worrying about the West Indies just yet," he said.

Quite right, too. There is no bigger ambition for an England cricketer than to beat the Australians. The reverse, as Allan Border stressed yesterday, remains equally true. But the Australian captain, contemplating this week's events, did say: "One-day games come and go. You can't dwell on them. I would sacrifice

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): G A Gooch (captain), A J Stewart, R A Smith, N H Fairbrother, G A Hick, G P Thorpe, C C Lewis, D R Pringle, O G Cook, R K Illingworth, P W Jarvis, A R Caddick, M N Lathwell, M R Rampersad.

AUSTRALIA (from): A R Border (captain), M A Taylor, M L Hayden, M E Waugh, O C Boon, O R Martyn, S R Waugh, I A Healy, M G Hughes, C J McDermott, T B A May, P R Reifel.

Umpires: O R Shephard and B J Meyer.

TEXACO TROPHY FIXTURES: Today Old Trafford, Friday Edgbaston, Sunday Lord's.

them to win the Test series any day."

As Border has played more one-day internationals than anyone in the game, he has less reason than most to dwell on them. Two relatively recent games, however, may be on his mind this morning. One is the World Cup match last year, won easily by England to the disappointment of all Australia. The other is the Lord's match of 1989.

"I don't tend to read much into these games, because they are so totally different," Border said. "But winning at Lord's gave us a huge lift and helped set us up for the Test series which followed."

England had won the first of the 1989 games very comfortably. The second was tied. But Australia's six-wicket win in the last shifted the balance of the summer. The Test series was a rout.

For Border, who was at his most genial yesterday, it is too soon to compare the teams of 1993 and 1989. "The mood is as good. I will say that. The young blokes we have make a



Border: positive

big difference and the attitude could not be more positive. Getting similar results might just be a bit more difficult."

He admits that the batting and bowling present contrasting problems. "The batting is a nice worry because everyone has made runs and they can't all play. But the bowling is a bit underdone—it hasn't been as sharp as we would have liked."

Craig McDermott has been off the boil for the last 12 months. Merv Hughes has had his problems with a knee but he now has to convince himself he is fit. It is a psychological thing.

Both will play today, with Paul Reifel as the third seam bowler and Tim May the specialist spinner. Mark Waugh will have a dual role as change bowler and opening batsman, a play successfully tried in New Zealand.

"Mark's one of those guys who's half asleep when he walks out to bat," Border said. "You don't do that as an opener and it jerked him into action."

Australia's only doubt last night was whether Mark Taylor or Matthew Hayden would go in first with Waugh. England, by contrast, had any number of batting options, largely dependent on Fairbrother.

The Lancashire captain, who averages 40 in one-day internationals, took a full part in practice yesterday and is confident of playing. If he does, Graham Thorpe will make his debut at No 6; if not, there could be a reshuffle of the order.

Lathwell's debut would captivate the public, such is his reputation already. With Thorpe and Andy Caddick also poised for their first games, England could have four players under 25 in the side.

Mike Gatting, who put himself out of contention for the Texaco Trophy when he cut his left hand and forearm in a dressing-room accident at Lord's a fortnight ago, returns to the Middlesex team today for a three-day match against Oxford University.

One-day averages, page 42



Express delivery: Andrew Caddick warms up for his England debut in the Old Trafford nets yesterday

RACING 41

PIGGOTT FACES
DILEMMA OVER
DERBY MOUNTInjured
Seles
will not
defend
her title

MONICA Seles, the world's No 1 tennis player, will not take part in the French Open or Wimbledon this year because of the recent stabbing attack on her, French Open officials said yesterday. The Open also lost another big name yesterday when the No 8 seed, Andre Agassi, the losing finalist in 1990 and 1991, pulled out, apparently because of a wrist injury.

Seles has won three consecutive titles in the French Open and seven grand slam titles overall, although the Wimbledon title has eluded her. She won the Australian Open earlier this year.

Seles was stabbed by a spectator in Hamburg last month. She is recuperating at the Steadman-Hawkins Clinic in Vail, Colorado. Gilles Delamarre, press spokesman for the French Open, said Seles's agent, Stephanie Tolleson, called Paris yesterday to inform them that Seles would not play in the French Open or at Wimbledon.

Steffi Graf, of Germany, replaces Seles as the top seed in the French Open. The seedings are based on the rankings of the Women's Tennis Association. All the top women except Martina Navratilova are entered.

After Seles's withdrawal, the top seeds would be Graf, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Gabriela Sabatini.

The top 16 men of the ATP Tour rankings are the tentative seeds. Pete Sampras is No 1, although the No 2, Jim Courier, is the two-time defending champion and favourite after his convincing Italian Open victory over Goran Ivanisevic. Stefan Edberg is No 3 and Boris Becker No 4. Ivanisevic, of Croatia, is No 5. Petr Korda, of the Czech Republic, is No 6, and Ivan Lendl and Agassi, seventh and eighth respectively.

The official draw for the French Open is on Friday. Players still can drop out before the event starts on Monday.

Other withdrawals announced yesterday included Amos Mansdorf, of Israel, and Leonardo Lavalle, of Mexico. The three vacancies in the men's section will be filled by Ronald Agénor, of Haiti, Bryan Shelton, of the United States and Diego Pérez, of Uruguay.

Arsenal replay plan blacked out

NOT content with a replay in the FA Cup final, Arsenal yesterday unveiled plans for a never-ending succession of them by installing giant video screens at opposite ends of Highbury next season.

For supporters wanting another look at how David Seaman saved a last-minute penalty it was the stuff of dreams. For others — like Tony Adams, perhaps — it threatened to be a real video nasty.

But if Adams was preparing for the worst, the Football Association came to his rescue. Using the screens for pre-match and half-time entertainment was OK, it ruled, but action replays of the game itself? The idea is a complete turn-off.

Supporters at Highbury will not, then, get the chance to see in slow motion Adams

Keith Pike reports on how the FA deemed latest scheme at Highbury a video nasty

celebrate a goal from Kevin Campbell by dropping him on his head from the top of the Clock End, or stand aloft and rage at a linesman for not giving outside when the replay shows Adams himself five yards the wrong side of his opponent.

Neither will they be able to count the fingers Ian Wright uses to let rival supporters know the score (funny how it's always 2-0 when he does, or Paul Merson's admirers get a close-up of him suggesting victory should be followed by downing several huge pints of lager.

"The idea is relatively uncontroversial in that we have no objections to fans being

provided with pre-match entertainment, at half-time or at the end of the game," an FA spokesman said. "We have, though, been consulted in the past about them being used to show highlights, and permission has been refused."

Recently we discussed it with Uefa [the governing body of European football] and their advice was a straight 'no' to showing highlights in the interval or at full time. At the moment I would think our answer would also be an emphatic 'no'."

It is a setback to the north London club, which has invested £2.5 million in the two Sony "JumboTron" screens, seven metres high and five

metres wide, as part of its £22 million redevelopment.

"We are trying to give our supporters something extra," David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, said. "It is part of our programme to upgrade the facilities at the stadium. It will encourage fans to give extra value for money."

Like the FA, though, the Premier League was unimpressed with the prospect of action replays. "They feel live action could incite the crowd and be a problem as far as safety and security is concerned," a spokesman said.

Supporters, it seems, will have to make do with Dein's plans to screen "interviews with players and action from previous games and training sessions." Maybe Adams dropping Campbell in the soup was not such a bad idea.

Tottenham chairman
seeks Crystal solution

ALAN Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, yesterday took another step against Terry Venables in the power struggle at White Hart Lane by writing to Jonathan Crystal, a director, inviting him to resign (John Goodbody writes).

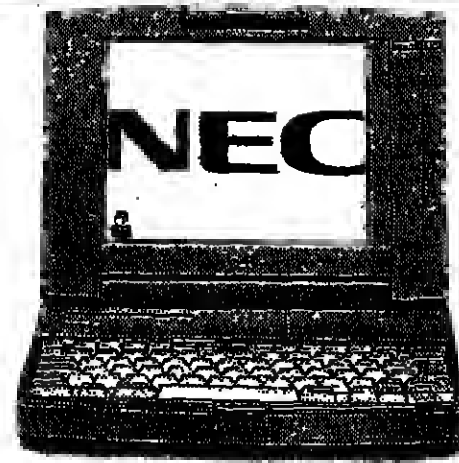
Crystal, a barrister, has been a supporter of Venables in the dispute, which has seen Venables dismissed as chief executive and then reinstated after securing a High Court injunction.

A spokesman for Sugar said yesterday that the board had been canvassed at its meeting on Monday for its opinion of Crystal and the majority wanted him to resign. Crystal was not present. The spokesman said: "Alan Sugar does not want to go to the cost of calling an EGM."

Sugar, the computer tycoon, has already blamed Venables' relationship with Crystal for "everything that has happened to this company in the past two years."

On Monday, the Tottenham board voted to dismiss Eddie Ashby, another friend of Venables, as a consultant. Although the situation seems more fraught at White Hart Lane, Crystal's resignation could help the situation. Sugar has always praised Venables' knowledge in football, although he has criticised the association with Crystal and Ashby, an undischarged bankrupt, since Venables became chief executive in 1991.

Sugar and Venables are due to appear in the High Court next Tuesday to discover whether the dismissal of Venables will stand.

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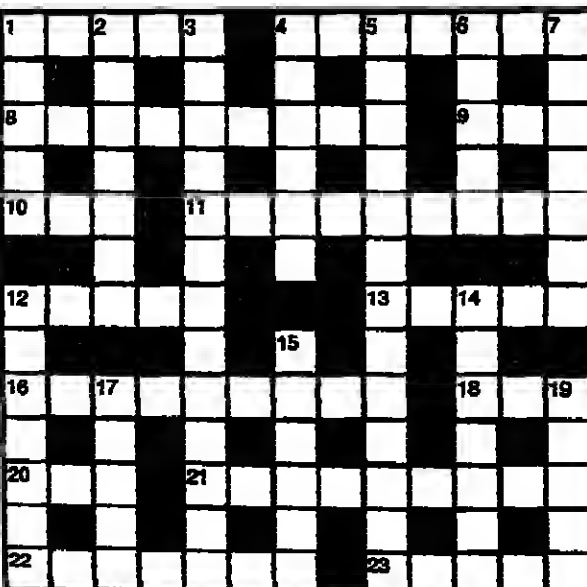
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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3100

- ACROSS
- 1 Young pigeon (5)
 - 2 Tranquil (7)
 - 3 Small game bird (9)
 - 4 Rowdy crowd (13)
 - 5 Drag with effort (3)
 - 6 The Times nickname (9)
 - 7 Devil (5)
 - 8 Put to use (5)
 - 9 Outward looker (9)
 - 10 Moose (3)
 - 11 Faint (13)
 - 12 Quiet period (3,6)
 - 13 Triangle, pentagon (7)
 - 14 Bright and cheerful (5)
- DOWN
- 1 Flower part (5)
 - 2 Vertical (7)
 - 3 Suddenly give voice (5,4,4)
 - 4 Circle spoke (6)
 - 5 Firm determination (13)
 - 6 Thighbone (5)
 - 7 Freedom (7)
 - 8 Hasten (5,2)
 - 9 Push forward (5,2)
 - 10 Overcome with noise (6)
 - 11 S Indian/Sri Lanka native (5)
 - 12 Sexually quirky (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3099

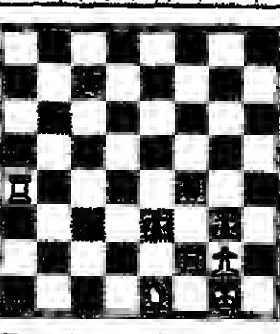
ACROSS: 1 Insult 2 Repute 3 Lich 4 Describe 10 Heifer 12 Peer 15 Par excellence 16 Mend 17 Geyser 19 Spookish 21 Obut 22 Snakes 23 Phlegm

DOWN: 2 Notre Dame 3 Ugh 4 Tide race 5 Rash 6 Periphery 7 Tab 11 Fieldwork 13 Exceeding 14 Flagship 18 Wits 20 Pan 21 Owl

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Vopchekovski — Sandler, USSR 1982. It looks as if black has a long struggle in prospect to make use of his extra pawn. However, he forced resignation with two killer blows. What were they?



Solution on page 40 Championship Chess, page 6

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

RYOKAN

a. An inn
b. A Mongol tribal leader
c. A yoke for oxen

REGGEON

a. A royal palace
b. A wallaby
c. A pony cart

JELUTONG

a. A Chinese rice cake
b. A device for copying
c. A latex tree

TAMMAR

a. A river in Wales
b. A wallaby
c. The Nordic limbo

Answers on page 40

مكتبة من الأصل